Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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FBIS-NES-95-227 *27 November 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

League Head: U.S. Jerusalem Vote 'Null and Void'

NC2411195395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has asserted that the U.S. Congress decision to transfer the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem shows that Congress was used, when the decision was made, to serve election objectives and to guarantee U.S. Jewish votes. He added that the decision is interference in an area where the head of state and the administration are supposed to shoulder responsibility.

In an exclusive interview with the "Bayt al-'Arab" program aired on Egyptian television this evening, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the U.S. Congress decision was made despite the administration's objection. Therefore, this decision is considered as null and void, he added.

The Arab League secretary general pointed out that the Declaration of Principles signed by the Palestinians and Israelis on 13 September 1993 stipulates that the issue of Jerusalem will be discussed during the final stage. Jerusalem has also been occupied since 1967 and, therefore, it must be subject to the Geneva Convention because nobody can encroach on the status of an occupied land. [passage omitted]

Maghreb Ministers Agree on Customs Council

LD2511140795 Rabat MAP in English 1301 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Nov. 25-(MAP/POOL/UMA) — The Maghreban economy and finance ministers agreed on the creation of a Maghreban customs council to coordinate customs policies, systems and procedures between Maghreban countries.

The agreement was reached by the Maghreban ministers at the end of the 9th session of their council convened in Nouakchott.

The ministers called for the creation of a Maghreban free trade area and stressed the need to reinforce Maghreban complementarity in the economic, industriag and commercial fieles to consolidate and upgrade the Arab Maghreb Union to the level of other regional groupings.

The council also called Maghreban central banks to coordinate their policies and reviewed the Maghreban travel check convention and preparations for the holding of constituent assembly of the Maghreban bank of investments and foreign trade.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat: Peace Process Should Be Accelerated

BR2411134095 Paris LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR in French 23-29 Nov 95 pp 90-91

["Exclusive" interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Rene Backmann on 10 November; place not given: "Fanatics on Both Sides Working Together"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Backmann] Can Yitzhaq Rabin's murder affect the peace process?

['Arafat] There is no doubt that the death of Yitzhaq Rabin is a huge loss for all of us, and for myself a tremendous shock. Not only because he was my partner, the man with whom I had concluded an honorable peace, but also because this murder, this crime, is a reminder for all of us that groups of fanatics, whose activities I have repeatedly condemned, are willing to go to any length in the hope of sabotaging the talks and killing the peace process. I hope — I am convinced — that Shim'on Peres, our second partner in these talks, is going to keep working in the same direction and that we shall continue together what we started with Yitzhaq Rabin. I even think we should speed up the peace process. To me, this is the only way we can answer the fanatics, show them that we are not going to let them thwart the progress of peace. This is a major responsibility since peace here is not just a matter of interest for the Israeli and the Palestinians, but for the entire region. And even for the international community as a whole. We must not forget that what we are trying to achieve is peace in the country of peace, peace in the holy land.

[Backmann] You met several times with Yitzhaq Rabin in the last few months. Do you think he felt threatened?

['Arafat] He made several mentions of the activities of those groups of fanatics who had already dared to attack his car one day, which was already quite worrying. And Eyal, that organization with which the murderer seem to be linked, had issued a highly threatening communique — while Rabin and I were in Washington — in which it said it was ready to kill Palestinians and Jews to sabotage the peace process and prevent the implementation of the Taba agreement. Yesterday (this interview took place on 10 November), these people issued new threatening statements, this time against Shim'on Peres and myself.

[Backmann] Today, it is rumored that right-wing Israeli extremists and Palestinian fundamentalists are working together to thwart peace. What is your opinion on this?

['Arafat] These are not rumors. There are facts. In the Beit Lid affair (a suicide attack thought to have

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been sponsored by the Islamic Jihad, in which 21 Israelis, including 20 soldiers, were killed by two bombs carried by Palestinians on 22 January 1995 — LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR editor's note), it is clear and obvious that groups of Israeli and Palestinian fanatics coordinated their actions. I have proof of this. Individuals who served as liaison agents with the Israeli extremists are now serving 10-year jail sentences. And I forwarded all the details I have on this affair to the "Troika" (EU representatives), to the co-signatories of the preliminary agreement (United States and Russia), to President Mubarak, and of course to the Israeli Government. I am in possession of a highly detailed file on this specific case.

[Backmann] Is it true that the two Palestinians who carried the bombs to Beit Lid and committed suicide by detonating them had spent some time in a camp where Palestinians collaborators of the Israeli Army are housed, and that they had been provided with uniforms and ID cards there?

['Arafat] Yes it is.

[Backmann] So the confrontation is no longer between Israelis and Palestinians, but between all those in both camps who want peace and those who reject it...

['Arafat] Exactly. This is a battle between those who want peace and the enemies of peace. There are similarities with what happened in France after the Evian agreements. Remember: The enemies of an honorable peace between France and Algeria even wanted to assassinate General de Gaulle.

[Backmann] Does the peace timetable remain unchanged?

['Arafat] Wait and see. We shall see, for instance, how the agreements already entered into are implemented in the field. I hope all of us will be able to overcome potential obstacles. But for the time being, there is no reason why we should change anything.

[Backmann] Are the Palestinian elections still scheduled for January, for example?.

['Arafat] Yes, January. Before Ramadan.

[Backmann] How are the talks with Hamas fundamentalists? Among other things, are you assured that they will participate in the elections?

['Arafat] Not quite. There is currently a dialogue going on between them and opposition parties. As you know, we are a democratic society. We have many parties. And we have been striving to convince everybody — at least all those who accept the rules of democracy — that they should take part in the elections. We have opened talks with everyone. To give a more specific answer to your question on potential Hamas participation, I shall only say that talks with Hamas are currently under way and that initial signs are favorable.

[Backmann] The future status of Jerusalem, as well as of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, will only be discussed in the final phase of the talks. What are your views on this status?

['Arafat] First of all, the status of Jerusalem will indeed only be discussed early in the third year (normally in May 1996 — LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR editor's note), focusing on three major topics: refugees, Israeli settlements, and borders. On each of these points we have our vision, which we shall express in detail at the negotiating table when the time has come to do so. But let me give you an example of what we might suggest should be done about Jerusalem. This example is Rome. This is the capital city of two states. The capital of a small state, but a major world power — the Vatican —as well as the capital of Italy. Again, I am not going to go into specifics, but let us say that we have basic positions from which we can negotiate. In such a negotiation, what matters is to know whether there is a real determination to reach a solution. And I can tell you, such a determination does exist.

[Backmann] Regarding Israel's settlers and settlements on the West Bank and in Gaza, what is your position?

['Arafat] Simple. If they want to stay with us and take on our citizenship, fine — why not? Again, as far as Gaza, the West Bank, or East Jerusalem are concerned, we are open to discussion. We shall consider any proposal brought forward by the Israelis.

[Backmann] What do you think were the main differences between Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin?

['Arafat] Both of them really became both our friends and our partners, as I said before, but they were very different men. One is a politician through and through, while the other one was a politician and a general. With the past, the background of a general. Which is not to say that it was easier or harder to negotiate with one or the other. Since we signed the Washington agreement together, in 1993, I had been in permanent contact with both of them. I would say negotiating with either of them was fairly easy.

'Arafat Returns Home, Chairs Cabinet Meeting

JN2611114695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat is currently presiding over a weekly cabinet session. The cabinet will discuss preparations by the National Authority

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and security forces to enter the Palestinian towns and villages which the occupation army will withdraw from next month. It will also discuss the results of President 'Arafat's European tour and the issues that will be proposed by the Palestinian delegation to the Barcelona Conference.

President 'Arafat has described his talks in Netherlands and Germany as positive and constructive. He said upon his arrival home this morning that Israeli occupation troops' redeployment outside Palestinian population centers is proceeding according to the agreed-upon timetable.

'Arafat Leaves for Barcelona Conference

JN2711064595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat left the homeland for the Spanish city of Barcelona this morning to head the Palestinian delegation to the European-Mediterranean conference. The conference, which will be attended by EU members and Mediterranean littoral states, will open later today. Immigration, terrorism, security, combating drugs, and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons are expected to be discussed. The conference aims to promote the peace process by supporting economic projects in the region.

President 'Arafat underlined the great importance of this conference, which he said will be a catalyst for a sweeping endeavor in Palestine at a cost of $4 billion over the next five years.

President 'Arafat is scheduled to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq on the sidelines of the conference. They will discuss the latest developments in the withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from the West Bank.

Cabinet Discusses 'Arafat's Tour, Issues

JN2611165095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers ended its weekly meeting under President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Office in Gaza a short while ago. The cabinet discussed the National Authority's [NA] preparations to take over the West Bank cities and villages. It also reviewed the results of President 'Arafat's European tour and participation in the European-Mediterranean Barcelona conference scheduled to open tomorrow, Monday. More details in the following dispatch.

[Begin 'Adil al-Za'nun recording] Chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, the NA's cabinet held its weekly meeting at the Presidential Office in Gaza. Discussions focused mainly on the Palestinian legislative elections law and redeployment in the remaining parts of the West Bank.

Ahmad Quray', minister of trade, industry, and economy said that President 'Arafat will meet Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq in Barcelona. He added: I believe President 'Arafat will meet Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres here after he returns from Barcelona.

On his part, Minister of Culture Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said the cabinet discussed the dangerous Israeli steps to build bypass roads in some areas in Qalqiliyah, Tulkarm, and Hebron. He said these measures are part of settlement expansion and seek to confiscate more Palestinian lands. He noted that these measures will increase tension in the region, adding that the NA rejects these measures and seeks to foil them.

Regarding the legislative elections law discussed by the cabinet, 'Abd-Rabbuh said that the NA will consult with the various Palestinian forces before the end of the week on amendments to the law and guarantees on its enforcement and the fairness of the upcoming legislative elections.

Within the same context, Minister of Justice Furayh Abu-Middayn said that the Palestinian opposition forces will take part in the elections. He noted that the opposition forces no longer oppose the elections.

The NA's cabinet will remain in constant session to follow up on the implementation of the second stage of the Declaration of Principles Agreement, particularly regarding redeployment in the rest of the West Bank cities and villages and arrangements for holding the elections on the scheduled date. [end recording]

Ambassador on Voter Registration of Expatriates

JN2711114495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 95 pp 32, 28

[Report by Kamal Zakarinah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian Ambassador in Amman, said the Palestinian elections scheduled for 20 January will be democratic and will give every Palestinian for whom the conditions of the Palestinian elections law applies the right to vote and run for elections.

In a statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Khatib added that special elections committees were formed in every Palestinian area. These committees, made up of judges, lawyers, and teachers, are in charge of supervising and examining the process of registering voters. Moreover, there are international supervisory committees from Jordan, Egypt, and Europe to supervise the elections and

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ensure their honesty. This means that these elections will be democratic in every sense of the word. He noted that there will be no room for doubt or election violations to undermine their honesty.

Al-Khatib added that the Palestinian National Authority [NA] informed every Palestinian embassy in countries where there are Palestinian expatriates of the need for those expatriates who hold valid permits and identification cards to take part in the elections and to exercise their right to vote. He said these expatriates are urged to send the required information to their closest relatives in order to register their names on the lists of voters in the electoral areas and constituencies to which each one belongs. This is so that every Palestinian expatriate can exercise his right to vote on election day.

The Palestinian ambassador stressed the need to register the names of Palestinians who reside outside the homeland for the purpose of working, studying, or any other reason and who carry citizenship cards from the constituencies to which they belong. He urged them either to travel to Palestine or to authorize their relatives to register for them.

Al-Khatib said: We hope that all brothers who are under this category will not be late in exercising their right to vote in the first Palestinian elections on Palestinian territories and under the NA.

He noted that the process of registering voters is going well in every area, including Jerusalem. He said that the rate of registration in some areas has exceeded 80 percent of those who have the right to vote, adding that the processes of registration are continuing.

'Umar al-Khatib said: We refuse to have Palestinian prisoners and detainees exercise their right to vote from inside Israeli jails and under the Israeli Army's supervision. He added: We insist that elections be held in liberated areas. The prisons are not liberated, and they are under Israeli control. Therefore, the Palestinian Authority refuses to have ballot boxes inside Israeli jails. At the same time, the NA is intensifying efforts to implement the agreement, which stipulates freeing all Palestinian prisoners and detainees before the Palestinian elections are held. [passage omitted]

Palestinians To Take Over Liaison Office Premises

JN2711073895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held in the city of Ramallah later today to discuss the arrangements for Israeli troop withdrawal from Ramallah and the entry of the Palestinian National Security Forces [NSF] into the city. Brigadier General al-Hajj Isma'il Jabr, NSF commander in the West Bank, will head the Palestinian side, and Major General Gabi Ofir will head the Israeli side to the talks. Israeli withdrawal from Ramallah is scheduled to be completed by 11 December.

The second NSF group will enter the city of Tulkarm today. They will coordinate with Israel through a joint Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Office to complete the arrangements for the withdrawal of Israeli occupation troops from the city of Tulkarm, which is slated for 10 December.

In a related development, 15 NSF officers will take over their assignments today at the headquarters of the Joint Liaison Office at the agreed site on the Nabulus-Huwarah main road. The 15 officers arrived in Nabulus yesterday. However, the change of the location of the Liaison Office by Israeli occupation troops prompted the Palestinians to refuse to take over the headquarters.

The Joint Liaison Office will take the required measures regarding the withdrawal of occupation troops from Nabulus, and prepare for the entry of the NSF into the city.

'Secret' Accord Said To Connect East Jerusalem Grid

TA2611111395 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 26 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Palestinian Authority [PA] has signed an agreement with the Jordanian Government on connecting East Jerusalem to the Jordanian electric grid.

A delegation of Israeli industrialists has learned about this by accident during a meeting it held with Samih Darwazah, Jordanian energy and mineral resources minister, in Amman. The delegates were surprised to hear about this agreement.

According to the remarks the Jordanian minister made, the PA has asked that the connection process be carried out in slow stages and completed by mid-1998 when, it believes, East Jerusalem will come under PA rule.

When the Israeli delegation started asking the Jordanian minister questions about this issue, he realized that he had revealed a political secret of which they were not aware. The Jordanian minister then explained that he assumed that the PA had signed the agreement with Jordan in coordination with the Israeli authorities. [passage omitted]

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PA Demands Release of 14 Islamic Jihad Activists

TA2711084595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Authority [PA] is demanding that Israel immediately release 14 Islamic Jihad activists who were detained in the Janin area over the weekend. In reaction, security sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the interim agreement authorizes Israel to detain persons suspected of terrorist activity in the rural area of Judaea and Samaria.

Islamic Jihad Not To Participate in Elections

TA2611164995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad movement in the Gaza Strip has announced that it will not participate in the elections for the Palestinian autonomy council. In its statement, the Islamic Jihad asserted that the movement see its purpose in the continuation of the holy war and will not participate in elections which are the result of the peace agreement between Israel and the PLO.

Faction To Take Part

JN2611112195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1000 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement-al-Aqsa Battalions has decided to participate in the upcoming legislative elections. The movement said in a statement that participating in the elections is the first step toward the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and entrenchment of national sovereignty.

Hamas Official Reports 'Improved' Ties With PA

JN2711082195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. al-Zahhar, an official of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], urged the National Authority not to listen to those who are trying to fight the attempts at reconciliation with Palestinian ranks. He reiterated that relations between the Palestinian Authority [PA] and Hamas have improved and are heading for constructive dialogue.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel Withdraws Demand for Early Warning Stations

JN2611202095 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 24 Nov 95 pp 1, 33

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Washington, Cairo, AL-ITTIHAD and news agencies — [passage omitted] Informed Egyptian diplomatic sources have revealed that Israel officially informed Egypt yesterday that it has relinquished its previous demands of installing early warning stations along the border with Syria following withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights, and decided to replace them by remote-sensing monitoring stations which can be installed within each side's borders. This is provided that Syria agrees to begin political, diplomatic, and economic normalization between the two countries, and to open diplomatic missions in Tel Aviv and Damascus during the first month after the signing of the Syrian-Israeli peace agreement, and that it does not link this to the stages of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan and its timetable.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ITTIHAD, the sources said that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has informed Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa of the new Israeli offer, and asked him to convey it to Syria and to inform him of the official Syrian stand toward this offer during the next week. The sources said that this took place yesterday when Musa phoned Peres to congratulate him on the formation of the new Israeli cabinet. [passage omitted]

Syria, Israel Break Impasse on Statement

JN2611095895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 26 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels—In their first contact since freezing their talks, Syrian and Israeli delegations reached an agreement on the dispute Syria raised over the final statement of the Barcelona conference, expected to open on 27 November. The EU member states and 12 Mediterranean states, including eight Arab states, are expected to attend the conference.

A four-hour secret meeting between the two parties took place on Thursday, 16 November. The Israeli delegation was headed by an Israeli envoy who is assistant to the foreign minister, while the Syrian delegation was headed by a Syrian ambassador who was delegated by Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

It is worth recalling that the Syrian-Israeli contacts froze several months ago after a series of negotiations

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in Washington which were attended by civilian and military officials from the two sides.

Baraq, Tunisia's Ben Yahya Meet on Relations

TA2711083895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq met his Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahya last night. The two discussed the establishment of relations between the two countries and the peace process. Our envoy to Barcelona Shlomo Raz reports, however, that Tunisia has decided to delay the implementation of the agreement reached in the past regarding the opening of interests offices in Tel Aviv and Tunis.

Today Minister Baraq will meet with Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, sign an agreement establishing relations between Israel and Mauritania, and then meet with Yasir 'Arafat.

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Algeria

Ministry Denies Meeting With Israeli Minister

LD2511125795 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has denied today any expected meeting between Foreign Minister Mohamed Salah Dembri and the Israeli foreign minister on the sidelines of Barcelona conference.

In a cable from Jerusalem dated 24 November, quoted by LA TRIBUNE today, AFP has said that a meeting was scheduled between the Algerian and Israeli ministers on the sideline of the conference.

The Foreign Ministry, contacted by APS, has categorically denied this report and said there was no meeting on the agenda of Dembri.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also explained that the daily LA TRIBUNE did not make any contact, contrary to what it claimed in one of its columns, and thus violated the ethics of the profession.

HAMAS Sends Congratulations to President

LD2611093595 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The HAMAS [Islamic Society Movement] movement sent the following message of congratulations to the president of the republic: Following the Constitutional Council's confirmation that you were elected president of the republic in a democratic and pluralist poll, we would like to send you our sincere congratulations on this victory.

We hope that you will serve the interests of our dear country to realize its aspirations for security and prosperity and to consecrate its identity. The high turnout showed that the majority of the population was inspiring to such goals.

Our pledge, however, to continue our struggle to see the state institutions completed through the election of a parliament and to protect the people's tenets remains unwavering.

We and the Algerian people have great hopes that you will act to end the crisis and bring about the sought-after change and break with the past, an endeavor that should be the goal of all sincere people.

May God guide you to fulfill your pledges.

FIS Letter to Zeroual 'Courteous' in Tone

LD2311111195 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 0700 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We now look at Algeria, where the recent presidential elections may even have opened up a channel for dialogue with the clandestine Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Its leader in exile has written a letter to the president-elect, General Liamine Zeroual, considering the present juncture to be an opportunity to resume the dialogue for a return to peace and to eliminate the causes of tension in Algeria. The hand being extended by the FIS is a reversal in its attitude toward the current Algerian Government in both tone and content and an implicit recognition of the president's victory at the polls. A report from Luis Miguel Ubeda:

[Ubeda] The letter sent from Bonn by Rabah Kebir, the leader of the illegal FIS in exile, has a surprisingly courteous tone. The letter contains no demand for the release of the imprisoned FIS leadership, nor references to a holy war, the Islamic state, or the junta, the term which the Islamic fundamentalists normally use when referring to the Algerian authorities. In place of this there is a respectful phrase, Mr. President. We believe, writes Kebir, that the popular support which you have enjoyed could be, for the government and the opposition, a great opportunity which is able to overcome the obstacles which hitherto have prevented a national dialogue for a return to peace, freedoms and understanding. The FIS, along with other minor opposition parties, had called for a boycott of last week's presidential elections, which took place with a high turnout and an overwhelming victory for the officialist [oficialista] candidate, General Liamine Zeroual.

FIS Forms Delegation for Dialogue With Zeroual

MM2411123795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Salvation Front Forms Delegation for Dialogue With Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algiers: The Algerian [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS] has chosen a five-member delegation whose task is to work to resume the dialogue with President-elect Liamine Zeroual.

Sources in Algiers told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this initiative, which has reportedly been blessed by the FIS' detained leaders, is aimed at ensuring that future contacts with the regime do not get out of control.

These reports coincided with the Constitutional Council's approval of the results of the presidential elections held on 16 November, in which Zeroual won about 62

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percent of the votes and the turnout was unexpectedly huge.

President Zeroual stressed yesterday that he would fulfill the pledges he made "before God and the people" during the election campaign, reemphasizing that he belongs to no party, but to Algeria only.

Zeroual said that the era of real pluralism prompts all sincere patriots to continue the mobilization for the sake of crystallizing a national plan to rectify Algeria's conditions.

The FIS has recognized the election results and Zeroual as the country's new president. The FIS is hoping that the president-elect will use his legal powers to enable the outlawed party to recover its position in the framework of the Constitution and the law.

An Algerian source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that "the request for initiating negotiations has been conveyed to President Zeroual through the usual channels."

The channel the FIS normally uses is the office of Major General Mohamed Betchine, an adviser to President Zeroual.

The five-member delegation will be headed by the FIS' freed leaders Abdelkader Boukhamkham and Ali Djedi, who are currently in the capital, Algiers. Both have been subjected to restrictions since last July.

The delegation includes a legal adviser to FIS leader Abassi Madani, who is held in Blida prison.

The FIS' initiative means that the party has abandoned the alliance opposed to Zeroual's government which it and seven other parties set up in Rome last year. A high-ranking FIS source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in the Algerian capital that "we are not abandoning the Rome principles. But we have specific issues which can be discussed bilaterally." [passage omitted]

FIS Figures Differ Over Dialogue With Government

NC2411210695 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 95

[Italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] Differences have widened within the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] after the open letter that Rabah Kebir, head of FIS Executive Committee abroad, sent to Algerian President Lamine Zeroual, in which he called for dialogue. Kebir was met by a violent response from Anwar Haddam, head of FIS Parliamentary Committee Abroad. MBC interviewed both figures on the telephone. Radwan Sammak gives you the details:

[Sammak] *It seems that the gap between the two figures of the banned FIS has widened. Rabah Kebir has considered that any decision by FIS must be made by the FIS Executive Committee.*

[Kebir] *Our call for a negotiated political solution is not a new stance, but emphasizes FIS's previous conviction and practices. FIS is serious and sincere on this stance. FIS's official position on these circumstances is expressed by the Executive Committee Abroad. Brother Haddam's stance remains a personal one that we respect as a view that is only binding to him. The overture to send the letter was made in an agreement among the FIS leaders inside and outside Algeria. All brothers hope for good.*

[Sammak] Anwar Haddam, however, said that no one will be permitted to unilaterally make a decision of this magnitude.

[Haddam] *Taking a stance on holding any negotiations with the regime in Algeria can only be made after a meeting of the FIS leaders and the mujahidin leaders and in the presence of Shaykh 'Abbas Madani and shaykh Ali Belhadj. This is the permitted stance by both shaykhs during their extensive correspondence. No one, whoever he may be, will be allowed to unilaterally take a stance of this magnitude.*

[Sammak] On the Algerian Government's response to Kebir's call for dialogue, Kebir said:

[Kebir] *This is a peaceful overture and, so far, there has been no response from the Algerian authorities. The ball is in the court of President Zeroual. It is difficult to think that he rejects the restoration of peace and security in the country.*

[Sammak] Is there a division within the FIS leadership?

[Kebir] *It is not wise to wager on divisions in the ranks of FIS or the mujahidin. This is not in the interest of the region or its stability and security.*

Split Seen in FIS Between Haddam, Kebir

MM2711121995 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Nov 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Amir Taheri, Salah Jamil, and Muhammad Sadiq: "Split in Salvation Front; War Between Haddam and Kebir"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, London, Washington — Algerian President Liamine Zeroual has decided to keep Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi in his post at least for the time being, sources in Algiers said yesterday. Meanwhile, disagreements have intensified within the Islamic

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Salvation Front [FIS] leadership abroad, as Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee, has said that Anouar Haddam, head of the FIS Parliamentary Mission abroad, "represents no one but himself." Haddam accused Kebir of "treason."

Leading FIS circles have threatened decisive measures against Haddam. Meanwhile [FIS] leaders inside the country said that the statements made abroad do not represent the views of those inside.

The dispute between Rabah Kebir and Anouar Haddam intensified yesterday. In a brief statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in reply to Haddam's accusation of "treason" for sending "an open letter" to President Zeroual tacitly recognizing the legitimacy of the recent presidential elections, Kebir said that the FIS is represented by the Executive Committee and its head, namely Rabah Kebir. As for Anouar Haddam, he is one of the parliamentarians who won seats in the December 1991 elections, and his stand is binding on him only.

Another leader of the FIS warned that "it could be compelled to take decisive measures against Haddam if he continues the line he is pursuing." Djafar Houari, member of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Kebir's letter to Zeroual "was sent after extensive consultations inside and outside Algeria." He said that Haddam "is entitled to object to anything as an individual, but not as an official, because no one has assigned him any responsibility."

Other FIS sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Executive Committee dismissed Haddam from its membership in 1994, "but his dismissal from the FIS should be decided by the leadership inside and abroad."

Haddam accused Kebir of deceiving the Algerian people because he effectively recognized Zeroual's victory in the elections. He said in a statement: "Our people will never forgive him for this deception. All we hope is for our brother Rabah Kebir to change his erroneous position."

However, Haddam denied in a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that his statement reflected a split or the start of a split in the FIS. He said: "So far, I rule that out. It is merely a difference of opinion over the position toward the putschists."

Concerning the position of the leadership inside the country on this disagreement, Haddam said: "The disagreement is not between me and brother Rabah. The disagreement has from the beginning, that is since the departure of brother Rabah Kebir, been between him and the leadership." He also said that his statement "was issued after consultations and contacts over the past two days with FIS leaders inside and outside. It was not issued in my own name at all."

On what has been reported about the formation of a delegation for dialogue with the regime, Haddam said: "We reject any such delegation, because such an issue should be referred to a collective meeting of FIS leaders with mujahidin leaders in the presence of Shaykhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj. Such a delegation should be agreed upon within a collective framework like the one I have referred to. Any attempt to exclude a certain quarter from the negotiations — whether in the FIS, the mujahidin, or the political partners signatory to the National Covenant — is bound to obstruct a solution to the crisis."

He said: "The party, that is the FIS, is still coherent despite all the blows dealt to it by the regime. Because it is a party based on a clear plan and a just cause. It is not based on individuals. It is natural to differ. The important thing is how to deal wisely with the difference of opinion."

He went on to say: "I am not speaking in my name personally, but in my name as head of the FIS delegation to the talks and head of the Parliamentary Mission abroad — the talks that led to the National Covenant. That was authorized by the two shaykhs [Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj], the other FIS leaders, and the mujahidin. We have invited the parties signatory to the National Covenant to an emergency meeting for consultation. We are awaiting their response. It all depends on the ability of the leaders of the parties inside the country to move out of the country."

However, a leading FIS figure inside the country told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT over the telephone in the Algerian capital that "what is being said abroad does not express our stand or orientation."

Without mentioning the names of Shaykh Rabah Kebir, head of the FIS Executive Committee abroad, and Anouar Haddam, head of its Parliamentary Mission, the source said: "We do not support fratricide" — a reference to the war of statements between the two.

However, the source supported Kebir's position on the presidential elections. The leading FIS figure urged the government "to lift the restrictions imposed on our ordinary political activities."

The Justice Ministry had issued an order preventing the FIS member to whom AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT spoke from making any statements to the media. He said: "Even if I announce my support of the election results, it will be considered a violation of the law." He went on to say: "The country's problems should be discussed

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inside the country, not in foreign capitals. But that is up to the authorities."

He stressed that the FIS leadership is fully ready for a national dialogue with the regime.

It seems that the National Liberation Front [FLN] has also entered the stage of self-assessment. According to some sources, Liamine Zeroual received former Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche and a senior FLN leader.

Reports say that Hamrouche is seeking to tighten his control of the FLN next month in order to reorganize it and announce the establishment of a new political party in its place.

Official sources have said that the Algerian president intends to make some ministerial changes with a view to advancing the political reform process and the privatization of economic projects. The cabinet's main duty will be to organize the parliamentary elections next June or October.

Draft 1996 Budget Projects Deficit

LD2511105995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The draft law for 1996 will be discussed today for the third consecutive day at the Transitional National Council [TNC] headquarters. The discussions during the last two days have highlighted tax increases on the one hand, and tax cuts on the other for single workers and married couples with no children.

The increases and cuts proposed by the draft finance law with figures are included in the following report by Souad Hamma.

[Begin Hamma recording] The 1996 draft finance law aims at continuing the reforms embodied in the Government program for the transitional period and ensuring their implementation. These reforms include recovering financial balances and starting the process of securing the financial surpluses liable to finance economic activities.

On the whole, the interventions of the TNC members focused on the need to attach more interest to a number of production sectors which are still suffering from equipment shortage, such as the fisheries sector. In addition, the interventions deal with the protection and promotion of national product in the market economy, as well as encouraging non-hydrocarbon exports. Members also presented proposals regarding regulating and controlling imports, which focus on the need to follow a strict policy in levying taxes and increasing government income by finding other resources.

A number of members proposed lifting duties imposed on tobacco and alcohols. [passage omitted]

The draft finance law for 1996 estimates that the hydrocarbon revenues for 1996 will be $10.4 billion, compared to $9.4 billion for 1995, on the basis of $16.5 for one barrel of oil.

The draft budget law for 1996 expects a total deficit of 99.4 billion Algerian dinars. [end recording]

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1611144095 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 14 Nov 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters" in Europe — quotation marks as received; received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Editorial: The international community and the military Juntas!

Praise be to Allah,
Last week the military Junta of Nigeria has defied the whole world and murdered nine political opponents. The military Junta has committed those murders more as an arrogant sign of challenge as if it were sure the whole international community can do nothing to stop its barbarian behavior. This event which was properly mediatised, has shocked the planet and more over has raised important issues that so far, have been the exclusive work of militants and activists and which was done most often in the blackout of the international media and frequently opposed by them.

The reactions of the international community as a whole was acceptable with nuances for those countries traditionally known to help dictatorships against the people in their archaic neo-colonialism model.

The military Junta in Algeria has gone much further but unfortunately the Algerian people did not find the proper assistance from the international community. For example, the EEC has decided rightly to stop its cooperation with the Nigerian Junta, the Algerian people had only a vague political statement inspired by the French president Mitterrand from Brussels and which assurances were given to the Generals in Algiers as far as the core of the declaration was concerned, even if the later was covered in a style that may suggest the contrary. Would the faith of Algeria have been any different, has the international community reacted harsher toward the usurpers of power in Algiers? Only Allah knows! However the issue here is not if

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the international community should or should not get involved in stopping the armies of the third worlds turning against their own unarmed people, it is rather "does the international community have the right to oppose those resisting Military Juntas"!. Whenever people of the third world are struggling to change their conditions vis-a-vis oppressive regimes that came to power by force, one can often see one or two main economical partners from the developed world actively opposing the change while trying to drag the international community in their basically selfish fight under different respectable appellations which are meant to mobilise the "lot".

This leads to the issue of moralising the international relations as well as the role of the UN. According to experts this institution has deviated from its original mission while others see it as a necessary starting point, which needs massive reforms starting with a change in the criteria for membership. This institutions should move from the actual position toward that of an international organisation defending the rights of the people of the planet rather than the interests of the few strong nations and those of unrepresentative regimes.

The military regime in Algeria has plunged the country in an internal war that has and still is causing massive misery for the people. The international community in general did not give any clear moral support to the Algeria people. However, as the Junta is conducting its show to dupe the people on what it calls elections, Mr Butrus Ghali, the UN general secretary did not want to disappoint the Junta Generals by giving them the proper and categorical "no" to their demand of UN observers, has decided and without consulting the general assembly nor the security consul, to send a symbolic team of six volunteers. Mr Butrus Ghali's personal gesture was to show the UN support of the "principle of elections" according to UN sources and not a sign of "authenticating the fairness or impartiality of the elections".

Indeed it is impossible in practice for the six UN volunteers who were given orders not to move from the Algerian capital, to supervise more than 30,000 voting bureaux. Some other organisations of less importance and known for their useless role have decided to send few observers and this should bring another issue for the reforms of the UN, that of the criteria for organisations to be affiliated to it.

The world seems to search for itself in this post-cold war era and it is in strong need of an impartial "single-standard" basis on which it can build the very near next century.

Pushing the real conflict and issues under the rug can only increase violence!

The following analyses are based on the strong conviction that these "elections" will not solve the Algerian problem but on the contrary will provoke in increase in the level of violence particularly if the military regime will receive active diplomatic assistance by some parties into making its General candidate a respectable "president" who deserves an appropriate "chair" in the "table" of real presidents.

The above forecast is "taken" from the same "book", which said on 11 January 1992, that "for a political problem, a political solution, not a repression on a massive scale". The Junta troops moving in with their massive arsenal made many people who did not like the victory of the FIS, momentary relieved. They believed or were made to believe by the type of "democrats who profess that wrong popular choice should be eradicated by army tanks", that the "mighty Junta" will speedily empty the Algerian society from the "fundamentalists", "fanatics", "terrorists", "drug traffickers", "baby slaughters"... etc, and the list of negative stereotype titles used by the enemy of Islam is still long despite the embarrassment of using that which describes the reality more faithfully: "those chosen by the majority of the Algerian people"! The dreams of those who believed that the Junta army tanks were the solution for "THEIR" problems did not wait long to find out that these military tanks are in fact a symptom of the real problem which is the military dictatorship. Some of the people have reached the conclusion that indeed the only place where a military man should be in, is the barracks and looking after the inviolability of the Algerian frontiers if the society is to be safe from "his strong urge to discharge his frustrations on unarmed civilians" particularly when given guaranties of persecution immunity from his top hierarchy. Today, this "military man" with his finger on the trigger of his Kalashnikov (literally speaking), is given the duty to make sure that the Algerian people vote massively! As the current infamous Junta electoral slogan says: "Your voting card is your identity!", the job of the "military man" is made easier for him to dissociate the future, the Junta supporters from its enemies by simply checking the voting card to see if it has or not the stamp "HAS VOTED" on it!

There is an absolute conviction that the conflict will not end with these forged "elections".

Those who have decided to "run" for these "elections" are from those who have participated in the Junta institutions and/or supported the cancellation of the elections and/or have called for it, immediately after the results were made public. They may read their

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"lessons" from a different "book" which may say that "The Algerian people are a bunch of flocks whose voices and votes should be taken only when it serves these candidates plans and ambitions and crushed with the army tanks otherwise".

It will be wrong to assume that the Junta's Generals, the candidates and the influent states in the region, see these "elections" identically or have the same objectives.

The military Junta's fundamental weakness is its illegitimacy and all its programs and manoeuvres from January 1992 up to now have been to redress that and no matter how cosmetic the necessary process is or how dishonest its achievement can be. The Junta concerned about its image has never been vis-a-vis the real provider of the legitimacy which is the Algerian people, but it has always been with respect to the international community in general and those states which have direct interests in the Algerian situation, in particular. And these elections are for that purpose and only that as far as the Military Generals are concerned. The Junta has already "deployed its front-line battalions" in operation "preparing the red carpet for General Zeroual as the legitimate representative of the Algerian people in the international community circles."

The Junta is concentrating on two influent countries: The U.S. and France. The latter is commonly taken as representing the EEC in the region even though its interest goes first in case of incompatibility.

The actions of the Junta toward "preparing" (or one should say "facilitating", may be) the French authorities in officially recognising General Zeroual as "the fairly elected president", seems to take place in two fronts: "the business", and the "French public opinion".

For the "business front", the Junta is playing on the Franco-American economical competition in the region. Last Sunday morning (12 Nov 95), the Junta radio was talking about the trip a group of Algerian "PRIVATE" businessmen was making to the States and how Algeria of "after-the elections" will "happily" join the "New world order"! The proportion of the media coverage about it in the middle of the "electoral campaign" is some kind of an advance warning to the EEC and France in particular about the idea of not "celebrating" the "consecration of General Zeroual" during the coming Barcelona summit of the EEC/South Mediterranean countries. The Junta is expecting General Zeroual to be present and officially recognised as "the fairly elected president of Algeria". The timing of the "elections" was indeed well planned!!!

For the "French public opinion front", the perpetrator of the Junta dirty job, the secret police "La S.M" (La Securite Militaire) is tackling the "operation" by "proving", by action and/or misinformation that the conflict in Algeria is that of those who are "defending France and the Francophony", with those against. So with respect of the "French public opinion", it becomes a "non-patriotic" act not to be with the "enemy of France and the Francophony". Under the present French poll of "unpopularity" it also becomes harder to try other options or direction that the ones pursued so far.

The above analysis does not mean that the French authorities are not favouring General Zeroual against all other candidates, on the contrary they are, but with a slight difference with the military Junta's Generals and more precisely with General Zeroual. The French authorities want to see General Zeroual "elected" as a first step in a process meant to bring Algeria to a stability through democratic tools in a game not left entirely to the Algerians to set. Signs are pointing to the fact that France is already "putting conditions for the "players" illegibility to play". In setting these conditions, the French authorities do not seem to look at the other "extreme of the spectrum", the darkest one, perpetrator of mass murder in the Junta jails, the torturers, the "managers and executors" in the death squads... etc and who strictly do not have a place in the future of Algeria if this future is to be permanently peaceful. So by trying to cut off one side, the French authorities will be trying to create an unbalanced situation to their advantages in a hypothetical table of negotiations which at this stage looks like a mirage more than anything else. This French "political surgery" (or "butchery") will surely find a strong irreversible opposition from the Islamists to whom there is no question of "taking the political cover from the Mujahedin".

The existing nuance between the clan in the Junta hierarchy who supported Gen. Zeroual candidacy and the French authorities lays in "after-elections" objectives.

It is the tradition of the Algerian military regime to believe that applying imported systems should give the same results independently of the place or the situation it is implemented on. And today, the Junta seems to be very impressed by the apparent results of their friend the Tunisian General-President Ben Ali. So for the junta these "elections" are the first step toward a "presidential dictatorship" with a cosmetic "pluralism" that can still deliver presidents with 99.99 percent of votes. Algeria will have many "political parties" that are so unrepresentative in comparison with the future political party which General Zeroual is planning to form based on existing pro-Junta leadership of organisations such as the national syndicate (UGTA) and in continuation of Boudiaf's project.

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The Algerian situation is different from the Tunisia's which at this moment has not reached yet, a level where a youngster takes a car, fills it with explosives and cold-bloodily drive straight into a police station or a military barracks.

The Junta Generals have "the Gobbels syndrome" and are predisposed to strongly believe in the "election" results even if it is they who have chosen them.

The French authorities seem wanting to have a free hand on the matter and treat the "after-election" Junta with the same duality calling General Zeroual, president when he behaves and reminding him from where he comes from by calling him General when he steps out of the line. The recognition of the "General President" will also be used as a bargaining chip in eventual negotiations with those who have something General Zeroual did not have so far but seriously thinks he will have tomorrow: the "precious" legitimacy.

The Barcelona summit will be the real test for the Algerians to see how France will react to the "Junta elections".

When the Junta radio talks about Algeria playing a role in the "new world order", the Generals seems to ignore or they don't know that the pillar for this model is that there is no place for those who pretend to represent countries without being freely chosen by the people without any of the actual ambiguity attached to these so-called free elections which are taking place under a military deployment while having the military chief as "the favourite" candidate. Now, can the Junta successfully dupe the American administration into making them believe that the "elected President in civilian costume" is different from yesterday's "Military General"? Or as more seriously put by some: are the Americans willing to drop the standard of democratic values and accommodate the "metamorphose of the General" in accordance with the model based on: "stability brings business, which brings prosperity, which reinforces stability"? This model may work in a situation where stability is reached through a real resolution of the conflict, but unfortunately it is not the case for Algeria of the "after-elections". To "bring a solution" to the problem the Junta has turned to a fictive opposition which has received a total of 636,792 votes exactly in the last elections against 5,669,805 of total votes for the parties which are boycotting these farce called elections. It is exactly 8.9 times the total votes of those who have decided to run. These numbers are taken from the "Official Journal of the Algerian Republic" of 4 January 1992, a week before the coup.

Can the Junta solve the problem with those of which it does not have any problem with?

Even at this stage of their "involvement" to put very mildly, those who have decided to play the Junta "game" for some reason or another by being candidates and who have promise to disclose to the Algerian people any cheating that may occur, should know that they have a big responsibility toward the Algerian people and history in terms of fulfilling the above engagement.

The Algerian people have the right to know the real results of these elections to make the necessary conclusions. They take those who decided to enter this "competition" fully responsible in informing them when finding that these elections are a forgery. The Algerian people will surely not be satisfied with a few declarations about a few miscounts in this or that voting bureau. It is the overall honesty or betrayal when announcing the results publicly in terms of rate of participation and distribution of votes amongst the participants.

The psychological effect on the Algerian people if they find out but not in time, that they have been betrayal, will amount to a final loss in trust for elections as a means of solving confrontations. It will be then up to those who have participated in the treason to find an alternative way to bloody violence.

As for those who, in their electoral programs, have given a respectable place for Islam, also for a reason or another, it must be said to them to fear Allah as he should be feared and take the thrust put in you to its proprietors even to the naive amongst the muslims.

And for all civilian candidates, they ought to know that the Algerian people will never forget any lack to denounce the betrayal particularly if they come to know that those parties were recompensed by few ministerial cabinets in the Junta coming government!

The Algerian people are worth far more than all the government positions in the whole world.

The "elections" in Britain!

The Algerian Community in Britain (ACB) has set up a picket in front of the Junta council in London in order to protest against the "elections". The picket is planned to stay on four days (from Monday 13 to thursday 16). Following are some of the observations made during Monday and Tuesday:

— The average rate of voting was about 10/hour in the periods between 2 PM and 4.30 PM.
— The British police servicing was excellent.
— The ACB members have distributed many documents showing evidence of the Juntas criminal behaviour.
— All the people took the ACB distributed documents.
— Most of the voters have come to excuse themselves (as if they had to) to the ACB members saying they

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have voted because they were afraid of the embassy retaliation on their administrative documents. Some say they are waiting for their passports or other documents.
— According to voters, the majority have said to have put blank voting bulletin.
— Some voters have said that they have written FIS on their voting bulletin.
— Some people took the ACB documents inside the embassy and were blamed by the Junta officials for doing so.
— The voters said that as one gets in the council, a big photograph of General Zeroual were hanged at the top of the voting box.

Egypt

Ministry Denies Report Citing Musa on Pakistan

NC2511191695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry this evening denied a foreign radio report citing Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa's statements on Pakistan's leniency toward the presence of extremists on its territories.

The source affirmed that Musa made no statements to Radio Monte Carlo which had attributed such statements to him.

The radio claimed that Egypt asked Pakistan to expediently hand over the extremists located in its territories after the blowing up of the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

Al-Alfi on Pakistan, ' Terrorism,' Human Rights

MM2411153995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Nov 95 p 7

[Interview with Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi by unidentified correspondent in Cairo; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [AL-HAYAH] Let us begin with the earthquake. Were you ready for the emergency this time?

[Al-Alfi] Of course, after the last earthquake a reassessment was made and measures and preparations were taken for the future. Thank God, the damage caused by the latest earthquake, which was clear and violent and which continued for a while, was limited. The departments in charge of dealing with disasters, the civil defense authorities, and the local administration proved their existence and readiness. We have announced the results. Regrettably, there was some loss of life mostly resulting from the collapse of buildings which had been liable to or in danger of collapse, but the losses were not big, thank God.

[AL-HAYAH] On the question of the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan, is the picture now clear to you regarding the perpetrators?

[Al-Alfi] Some organizations are investigating and searching. There is cooperation with the Pakistani authorities, and we have had some results but, in the interest of the investigation, there will be no announcement of information from which some absconding persons or individuals who have not been caught yet might benefit.

[AL-HAYAH] Should one expect some reaction from Pakistan, such as expediting the extradition of those wanted by Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] There can be no doubt about that. That is the least a state on whose territory terrorist acts occur can do because it is the party fully responsible for the protection of everyone working on its territory. When the culprits are known, they should naturally be extradited and brought to trial. The Pakistani Government should also take a stand on the question of harboring such terrorist elements or allowing them to remain in its territory because there can be no doubt that the first damage and the first harm is to the Pakistani state itself, because letting such criminal non-Islamic [not true Muslims] traitors commit terrorist crimes and giving them freedom of movement is a weakness for any state.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you now have a clear idea about the distribution of those accused of terrorism abroad, and what places or states do you now consider more dangerous than others?

[Al-Alfi] There can be no doubt that the places are now known to everyone. I will not name individuals or states. There are continuous contacts between states and there is full surveillance of terrorists and all their movements abroad. The time has come for the international community to wake up, be alert, and realize that any state which gives such people freedom of movement on its territory or the freedom to meet, train, collect funds, hold contacts, or issue assignments is bound to witness attacks on its territory of the kind that occurred in Pakistan. These people have no conscience, ethics, or faith. They are criminals in every sense of the word. Their actions are clear. They do Islam the greatest disservice. These are acts of terrorism, murder, and destruction. They are infidels and cannot possibly be called Islamists. There is no reason, justification, or motive for such crimes. Neither Islam nor any other religion would condone it. Why do they kill people for just any purpose? They kill for the sake

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of killing and to serve their own private interests. They want to benefit from fund raising and try to reach power through violence and crime. There is nothing in their methods that fit in with Islam. Theirs are methods of conspiracy. Almighty God told his Prophet, God's peace and blessings be upon him: "Do thou give admonition for thou art one to admonish. Thou art not one to manage (men's) affairs." [Koranic verse] So how could one of those appoint himself as amir [leader] or deputy amir? How could they love one another and renounce and kill others, by what right, under what religion, and on what legal grounds do they do that? "Killing one person without justice is like killing all people." [Koranic verse] Where is all that they are doing in the holy Koran? States which help such people are in fact helping to distort the image of Islam. Those people are not Muslims at all. It is regrettable that the media talks about the Muslim fundamentalists as representatives of Islam. If that is what they are then what are we, the faithful Muslims in Egypt and the Islamic world? May God support us in upholding his religion against those who are destroying Islam. Their end is known, God willing.

[AL-HAYAH] Is the escalation of terrorist operations abroad a reaction to the inability to act in Egypt?

[Al-Alfi] These are terrorists whose aim is to cause trouble and instability and undermine safety and security in any area. They think that they attract attention and intimidate people with their actions. Internally they have been exposed and the security authorities are continuing their measures and their confrontation using modern scientific methods. They have been very successful and now have the initiative and are closing in on them completely, so much so that there is no longer a fully existing organization with an infrastructure that would enable it to play its part. They are now groups on the run, trying to make noises to prove their existence, on instructions from abroad. In addition to the security authorities' efforts, there is a more important factor, namely public opinion, which helped expose those terrorists. All the people have now begun to reject and discard them. Every new crime they commit adds to the people's hatred of them, especially after what happened in Islamabad.

[AL-HAYAH] The operations abroad have reflected coordination between the "Jihad" and the "[Islamic] Group" after a period of conflict between them. Have you confirmed such coordination?

[Al-Alfi] In the beginning every group thought it would be able to triumph on its own. Everyone wanted leadership and wanted to take everything. Some broke away from some groups in order to take over leadership. Of course, when they were exposed and contained they began to coordinate in preparation for a new confrontation. That is the truth. They are making attempts to combine their efforts but all these secret efforts are now known to the world. I tell states that harbor them and treat them as political refugees: That is a grave mistake because they are not people of any ideology or creed at all. They are a group of criminals. That was the main point we discussed at the conference on crime prevention held last May and attended by 156 states. A resolution was passed linking organized crime to terrorism on the grounds that terrorism is an organized penal crime not a political one, and therefore, suspects should be extradited and not regarded as political refugees.

We have seen what happened in some of the states which gave them refuge, especially France, and even Germany, Britain, and others. The suffering will be greater if there is no real full confrontation through exchange of information, coordination of combat methods, and extradition of suspects. Time is proving us right in our analysis. There must be an international stand against terrorism.

[AL-HAYAH] On the internal level, could the gunfire opened on two trains in Upper Egypt be viewed as a new wave of terrorist operations?

[Al-Alfi] These two incidents did not create any danger. People hide in a sugar cane field and open fire on a passing train. Any child can do that. That does not constitute a phenomenon or an organized and planned action. These are mere individual acts because the groups known in the past have been eradicated. Minor incidents could occur anywhere in the world but they do not affect the general stability and security. The terrorist phenomenon in Egypt is now under full control, and the initiative and control are now in the hands of the security authorities and also the public who see terrorism as an evil which must be eradicated.

Generally speaking, individual operations are of no value and the strength of the security organs cannot be measured on the basis of confronting such incidents. The success of our organs began to appear when they aborted operations before they could be carried out. There have been scores of such cases, like what happened in June when we seized arms caches in Kawm Umbu, and this month when we seized even bigger caches, a fact which was made public. We also captured all those who were preparing to commit the crimes. That shows the efficiency of the security authorities. We have also uncovered scores of cases of assassination attempts, and that was made public at the time. We seized the instructions sent from abroad. We have full

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information about those people's foreign contacts, with whom they deal and how. All that has been referred to the investigation teams.

[AL-HAYAH] Do you expect a negative reaction from the Muslim Brotherhood after the military court's sentences against its members (yesterday)?

[Al-Alfi] We are prepared for anything. The punishment is clear for anyone who might contemplate breaking the law or undermining legitimacy. We lie in wait for such people and there will be no leniency when it comes to Egypt's law and security. The sentences were a matter for the court. We tackle anyone who tries to harm Egypt's security and undermine its safety.

[AL-HAYAH] While the Muslim Brotherhood case was referred to the military tribunal, other cases classified as cases of terrorism were referred to civilian courts. How do you explain that, particularly as the Brotherhood case is not, they claim, as serious?

[Al-Alfi] In their view, it is not as serious but it is quite serious because these are complete organizations trying to assume power by any means regardless of the many repercussions for the security of the state as a whole. That is most serious, more serious than one person killing another, because it could result in killing a nation. Furthermore, those people were brought to trial on the basis of evidence, with the approval of the prosecution, and in accordance with sound legal measures. The courts they were referred to are constitutional courts defined in the Constitution. The president has a right to refer people to those courts in accordance with the law and the Constitution. Any claims to the contrary are false.

[AL-HAYAH] The statements of senior Egyptian officials do not distinguish between the Muslim Brotherhood, the "Jihad," and the "Group." The Brotherhood denies the charges and claims that the authorities have no evidence.

[Al-Alfi] There is distribution of roles. One would appear to be peaceful and to be a preacher, one would take care of the military aspect, and one would take care of the criminal aspect. Everyone has a role to play. The visible group consists of peaceful people but this is a well-known story. Back in the forties there was a completely secret organization carrying out acts similar to what is taking place now, such as assassinations and explosions. These are known facts, not claims or assumptions. The roles have not changed but they have been redistributed among the various conspicuous groups and secret organizations. They might disagree among themselves on some issues but their aim is the same. They might disagree on management and leadership but in the final analysis they are the same. We now have evidence of links, assignments, and cooperation. We currently have a case in court. We have categorical evidence and confessions that someone in London issued instructions to someone here in the Muslim Brotherhood leadership telling him to contact a Jihad member to carry out a certain operation. The fax, the contact, and the confession are there. What more do you want? There are those who want to distinguish between those who carry arms and those who do not, but the instigators are more dangerous than the gunmen, and the public have a right to know the facts. Furthermore, we have evidence of full cooperation between the groups and of what the Muslim Brotherhood has been doing in relation to the collection of donations and spending them on the families of those accused in cases of terrorism, murder, and bombing. How can they say that they have no links with the Islamic groups and terrorism and then give money to the terrorists' families? Is that charity, alms, or what? I say that these are facts proving the Brotherhood's cooperation with the terrorist groups.

[AL-HAYAH] Some of the Brotherhood's rivals ask whether the Brotherhood's headquarters has any legal status.

[Al-Alfi] It is wrong, illegal, and should be confronted. That group is not an organization, it has been dissolved and does not exist. If there is an illegal organization that is not recognized in accordance with the law, it has to be referred to court. This is the main issue in the case of the Brotherhood and its establishment of a shura council and other things that violate the laws.

[AL-HAYAH] So the headquarters was merely a fait accompli which they exploited.

[Al-Alfi] Yes, regrettably...regrettably.

[AL-HAYAH] The case of Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim (who disappeared in Croatia) is an international issue. There is information, almost certainly confirmed, saying that he is in Egypt. Would you confirm this?

[AL-Alfi] Actually I know nothing about him.

[AL-HAYAH] Some people say that he is in Egypt and that he is being interrogated in preparation for being brought to trial.

[Al-Alfi] I would have known if there was anything of that kind, because he would be interrogated by the State Security Investigation. All those reports are baseless.

[AL-HAYAH] With regard to the seizure of arms smuggled through the border with Sudan, is there conclusive evidence of the involvement of official Sudanese organs?

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[Al-Alfi] Not just one piece of evidence...countless evidence...conclusive evidence, which is before the court now. There are people who crossed our border with the help of the Sudanese authorities, and they committed certain crimes after receiving their training there [in Sudan]. The source of the arms seized in June and November is clear. And the people arrested have made full confessions in this connection. Thus I conclusively confirm that there is Sudanese involvement.

[AL-HAYAH] To what extent are you satisfied with current Arab cooperation in the face of terrorism?

[Al-Alfi] There is coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Arab interior ministers conference. But there is a need for further cooperation, especially greater speed in the confrontation. The threat is to all the Arab states, not a certain state. All the Arab and Islamic states are targeted. Thus there should be urgency and speed in measures relating to cooperation, exchanging information, training, aspects of the confrontation, extradition of criminals, and many other measures which should take place; we have indeed begun to take steps in this connection.

[AL-HAYAH] Let us move on to the elections. You have repeatedly stressed that guarantees will be provided to ensure honest elections. The opposition complains that the guarantees are insufficient. What are the criteria for honesty?

[Al-Alfi] Naturally, any oppositionist is bound to make justifications and attacks. Regrettably, this is erroneous. In fact they cast doubts before anything takes place — evidence that they always accuse people for no reason. If they believe that the elections will not be honest, why are 404 candidates going to take part in them? And if they know beforehand that the elections will be rigged, as they say, why run in the elections? It is merely distortion and counterpropaganda. For example, this includes what is being said about the authorities' assistance for the National [Democratic] Party [NDP] and its candidates. That is a lie and fabrication. An NDP candidate who is a member of the current People's Assembly was arrested a few days ago because he violated the regulations concerning the organization of the elections. He was arrested with the group escorting him and referred to the prosecutor's office. He was interrogated and then released after paying a 500-pound fine. This is one of numerous examples. Anyone, whatever his affiliations, who oversteps or violates the election campaign regulations stipulated by the Constitution and the law should be held to account.

[AL-HAYAH] Does the neutrality exercised by the Interior Ministry include the governors' practices?

[Al-Alfi] Any practices during the elections, any practices that violate the law. I have issued instructions to security officials in 26 governorates to confront such practices. Our role is to maintain security and order and to guard polling stations, not to interfere in the election process.

[AL-HAYAH] Why did you criticize the formation of a civil committee comprised of some figures and representatives of human rights organizations to observe the elections?

[Al-Alfi] I want to know whether we are applying the law or not, whether we are a state of institutions or not, whether we are a legitimate state or something else. The Constitution and the law stipulate that the elections are to be conducted under the full supervision of the judiciary, according to the Constitution and the elections law, provided that there is a judicial quarter, a neutral quarter, and an independent quarter to supervise the process. So how can a group of individuals belonging to various tendencies, including the far right, the far left, and strange tendencies, appoint themselves guardians to observe the election process? How can a group that has no legal status engage in any action? Everyone would then say that he is neutral, hence the process becomes chaotic.

[AL-HAYAH] But it is a civil and local observation group.

[Al-Alfi] By God, do you expect it to oversee the judiciary? That is illegal in the first place. We are a state of institutions. If we allow such a thing, we would be casting doubt on the judiciary's authority. However, if a committee is formed in accordance with the law and with clear and specific duties, it would be welcomed.

[AL-HAYAH] The Egyptian human rights organization issued a report a few days ago condemning the practices of extremist fundamentalism and holding it responsible for the death of more than 900 people. Have you changed your view of this organization?

[Al-Alfi] I once again say that we are a state of institutions. We are committed to the law. What is the Egyptian human rights organization? Does it have legal status? Was it set up in accordance with the law? No. So I have nothing to do with it. I am not compelled to listen to any group that has no legal status. No state in the world would do that. Besides, regrettably, over the recent period we have heard nothing except condemnation of the government and security organs. All attacks in the name of human rights were against the security organs, which arrest suspects and those who commit terrorist crimes. We did not hear a single voice when children, women, and elderly people were killed

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in public squares and schools, when bombs were hurled at them. We did not hear any condemnation. All we heard was defense of the suspects.

And when an international human rights organization issued a report saying that eight people had been killed in the prisons, it was discovered that the eight people in question did not exist and that they were imaginary. Or else those they said had died are still alive. It is clear that there are numerous lies from these organizations because they get their information from the suspects or their families, and when we issue a statement containing documented facts, they immediately say that it is a lie. Why? Because it is issued by the government. We have numerous questions about these organizations because they do not deal with the facts neutrally and objectively.

Plan To Increase Security, Retrieve 'Terrorists' Viewed

NC2511141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Trans[illegible]d Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA) — AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I today [25 November] reports that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, in conjunction with some specialized security quarters, are in the process of drafting a comprehensive and integrated security plan to secure the premises of embassies and diplomatic missions in a number of European and Middle Eastern countries, in the wake of the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan on Sunday.

Quoting informed sources in Cairo, the paper notes that the details of the plan were finalized by several important committees from the Foreign and Interior Ministries and some specialized security departments. The committees were formed following the bombing of the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan. The Egyptian security measures are based on a number of important elements, including the priority of the host country, the density of the terrorist elements in some countries, and the magnitude of the Egyptian diplomatic representation in some Western, international, and Arab capitals. A final review of the security plan is now being conducted so that implementation could begin next week simultaneously and gradually in some embassies and diplomatic missions.

The same sources add that urgent and extraordinary security measures have already been adopted in some embassies following the Islamabad bombing. Some embassies were instructed to adopt urgent security measures and to request assistance from the governments of the countries where key embassies are located.

According to the paper, the new security plan is based on some important elements, such as reconsidering the system of guarding the premises and entrances of Egyptian embassies and diplomatic missions, protecting diplomats and administrative staff, and replacing security guards. A sufficient number of highly qualified individuals will be recruited and trained on methods to combat terrorist, violent, and bombing operations. Security guards and embassies will urgently be supplied with early warning and alarm systems.

In the meantime, the paper adds that the Egyptian authorities are in the process of holding contacts with a large number of European, Arab, and African states where some fugitive terrorists and individuals fleeing judicial sentences for terrorist crimes committed on Egyptian territories in the past four years are residing. The paper adds that a number of lists and files are being prepared to be handed over to some European countries by diplomatic and security teams that will leave in the coming days and weeks. The teams will hold important talks on the possibility of extraditing these terrorists and will negotiate with these governments on the possibility of signing mutual security agreements for the extradition of terrorists and those indicted in terrorist operations by court decisions. Meanwhile, intensive contacts between the Egyptian authorities and some other countries are under way to determine the names and locations of terrorists and to discuss prospects for increasing cooperation in this regard. The contacts are being made through diplomatic channels.

Foreign Minister on Barcelona Summit, Issues

NC2511203995 Cairo MENA in English 2010 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 25 (MENA)—The Barcelona conference, due to start on Monday [27 November], aims at setting up a general partnership that covers various aspects of Euromediterranean cooperation, within a new framework of relations between the EU states and the Mediterranean countries, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said today.

President Mubarak was the first to launch an initiative to establish a Mediterranean states forum as a basic step for cooperation between the EU and the Mediterranean basin countries, he said.

That initiative ended up with setting up an 11-member forum as a nucleus of a larger gathering that groups north, central and west Europe and south Mediterranean states, he said.

The Egyptian foreign minister said Arab coordination regarding Barcelona conference has not been at the required level.

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He, however, added that Arab meetings were held on the sidelines of the meeting of the Arab ministerial council in September and the summit of the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) in Colombia.

The Arab group at Barcelona conference will meet on Monday to discuss coordination among Arab countries at the conference, he said.

Musa added that the conference would be a gathering of countries surrounding the Mediterranean.

EU countries occupy a superior position while countries in south and east of the Mediterranean face economic and development problems.

A new framework of cooperation is required with emphasis on the establishment of free trade zones between the north and south of the Mediterranean, the Egyptian foreign minister said.

Commenting on the participation of Syria and Lebanon in the conference when Israel is to attend, Musa said the conference has no connection with the Middle East peace process.

Asked whether the conference would discuss the issue of terrorism, the foreign minister said it would be hard to hold such a conference without this issue being on the mind of participants. No agenda has been set on issues to be raised, Musa said.

The Egyptian foreign minister added that the final statement of Barcelona conference will cover all economic, political, security, cultural and scientific aspects of cooperation.

Musa called for intensifying efforts to eradicate terrorism.

Commenting on Libya's absence from the conference, Musa said Libya was entitled to be invited, at least from the geographical viewpoint, since it is a Mediterranean and Middle Eastern country, he said.

Musa said Egypt viewed failure to invite Libya as a big mistake. Egypt raised the issue and would continue to raise it at the meetings. He said the invitation to the conference was confined to countries which have partnership agreements with the European Union (EU). The foreign minister said Egypt is highly interested in the cultural dimension of the conference side by side with the economic and political aspects because the Mediterranean region faces many problems.

Commenting on developments of peace in the Middle East and the Balkans, Musa said that peace has not been completely settled in either of the two regions. The foreign minister added that the conference will discuss the Cypriot issue as well as other issues including development and backwardness.

Musa referred to the importance of raising issues in a sound way. In answer to a query, Musa said the conference will discuss the issue of clearing the Middle East from nuclear weapons as it is a pivot of peace in the region.

The foreign minister said that the conference will issue a statement stressing the respect of the international law, the respect of sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries, the consolidation of economic and financial partnership and the establishment of a common welfare zone.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will visit Egypt within the coming two weeks. He added that the recent statements by Peres confirmed the continuation of his attitude towards peace.

Musa hoped for providing a full diplomatic support for peace negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks in the coming phase. He denied any intention by Egypt to reduce the volume of its diplomatic missions abroad in the wake of the terrorist attack against the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

Asked about reports on a lapse in security measures adopted for the Egyptian Embassy in the Pakistani capital, Musa said these matters are still under investigations conducted by Pakistani authorities and the Egyptian team currently being there.

Commenting on statements by Sudanese officials that Egypt has adopted a regional role to affect the position of Sudan and its borders as well as its relations with countries in the region, Musa said the stance towards Sudan is clear as the Sudanese regime is required to establish self-exoneration from results of the investigations conducted on the abortive attempt on President Husni Mubarak's life in Addis Ababa in June.

The investigations unveiled that the perpetrators came to Ethiopia from Sudan and returned there after the failure of their scheme. This demonstrated the involvement of the Sudanese authorities in the incident, Musa said, indicating that this led to a bigger issue; namely the relation between these Sudanese bodies and terrorism at the regional level.

The foreign minister denied reports that the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa has received threats of explosion.

Asked about the possibility of the improvement of the Arab-Iranian relations, Musa said that there would be no word on the improvement of these relations till the

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settlement of the dispute of the three Gulf United Arab Emirates islands seized by Iran. Musa hoped for the initiation of serious negotiations to settle this issue as it is of interest that the Arab-Iranian relations should be good.

Asked about Israel's ongoing nuclear tests in the Gulf of Aqaba, Musa said that Egypt is following up and watching this.

Leaves for Meeting

NC2611092095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0900 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 26 Nov (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo this morning for Barcelona to attend the European-Mediterranean conference, which is due to open on Monday. The purpose of the conference, which will convene at the invitation of the EU, is to establish a general economic, cultural, and trade partnership as part of the cooperation between EU member states and southern Mediterranean countries.

Al-Jama'ah Urges EU To Act on 'Kidnapping' of Qasim

NC2411123795 Paris AFP in English
0943 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 24 (AFP)—Egypt's outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah urged the European Union on Friday [24 November] to act against the "kidnapping" of the militant group's spokesman who has gone missing since he was detained in Croatia in September.

"We expect European leaders to take a firm stand against injustice and terrorism as well as against the kidnapping of engineer Tal'at Fuad Qasim, who holds European identity," the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah (Islamic Group) said.

The Arab newspaper AL-HAYAH published the group's message addressed to the EU-Mediterranean conference opening Monday in Barcelona, Spain.

If the EU fails to take action, "we will realize that it supports organized terrorism, covers up the crime of kidnapping our preachers ... and that the era of organised European terrorism has started," it said.

Qasim, who faces the death sentence in Egypt, was arrested on September 12 on his arrival in Zagreb and expelled two days later to an unspecified country, according to the Croat authorities.

Egyptian Islamic militant groups have accused Croatia of extraditing Qasim, who has political asylum in Denmark and holds its passport, to Egypt. The al-Jama'ah said the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was involved.

But Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, also quoted in AL-HAYAH, denied the al-Jama'ah spokesman was being held in his country. "If he were in Egypt, I would know ... this information is unfounded," he said.

'Militant' Group Urges Brotherhood To 'Take Up Arms'

NC2611175795 Paris AFP in English
1455 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Nov 26 (AFP)—The militant International Justice Group (IJG) urged the Muslim Brotherhood on Sunday [26 November] to take up arms against the government after the jailing of 54 members of Egypt's main fundamentalist movement.

"It is time for the Brotherhood to fix their mistake" of renouncing violence in their bid to set up Islamic rule in Egypt, the IJG said, in a fax to an international news agency.

The Brotherhood "must return to reason and carry arms beside their brothers the Mujahidin (holy warriors) to put an end to injustice and defeat the aggressors," it said.

A military court jailed more than 50 Brotherhood members for up to five years on Thursday but the movement insisted it was still "opposed to violence despite this injustice."

The IJG also mocked Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi, who has vowed to pursue Islamic militants who launch attacks abroad, calling him a "drunkard and womanizer."

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah and al-Jihad, the main Muslim militant groups waging a three-year campaign against the Egyptian government, have previously called on the Brotherhood to take up arms.

The Brotherhood says it seeks to implement Islamic law through state institutions and has fielded a large number of candidates in parliamentary elections set for Wednesday, drawing criticism from the IJG.

But Egyptian officials have accused the Brotherhood of secretly backing Islamic militants and a police crackdown has taken in dozens of members since early 1995.

Six members of the Brotherhood were arrested in the southern province of Asyut on Sunday for distributing Islamic militant literature, police said.

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Paper Views Contacts To Contain 'Terrorism'

NC2611071195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 25 Nov (MENA) — AL-AHRAM reports that Egypt intensified its contacts at the regional, Arab, and international levels in the past few days to contain the phenomenon of terrorism, raise it for discussion before international conferences, coordinate stances and exchange information on those financing and carrying out terrorist operations, and urge the UN to prepare an annual report on terrorism. The report would outline how far the UN General Assembly [UNGA] members are committed to eliminating this phenomenon, which threatens the security and stability of all world countries.

In its issue published today, the paper points out that Egypt and a number of other countries have asked UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali to present an annual report outlining the member states' commitment to the General Assembly declaration to eliminate all aspects of terrorism and to abstain from allowing their territory to be used as training camps and bases for terrorist operations. The report would also provide guarantees for the arrest and trial of perpetrators, make room for holding bilateral agreements on terrorism, and establish a data base among the countries concerned with confronting this phenomenon.

AL-AHRAM quotes Sayyid Qasim al-Masri, assistant foreign minister for international relations, as saying that Egypt attaches particular importance to the need for the UNGA to discuss two items on terrorism during its present session. The first views methods to confront it while the second concerns the protection, security, and safety of diplomatic and consular missions. He pointed out that these two items are closely related to the criminal attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad.

The paper adds that the Egyptian authorities received several contacts from some European states in the past few hours requesting coordination in combating terrorism. Specialized teams are expected to arrive in Egypt within days to obtain information related to the activity of the leaders of the terrorist Islamic Group and al-Jihad organizations who are present in Britain, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany. Among these people, 9 have been sentenced to death while three others have obtained political asylum. Quoting responsible sources, the paper notes that Egypt will supply the visiting teams with all the information it has on the location of the terrorist leaders, the names they use to move around, evidence on their activity carried out from within these countries, and the fact that they link their presence there to false allegations. Taking advantage of these countries' support for freedoms and human rights, the terrorists extort the Egyptian and Islamic communities abroad and collect money from them to set up new terrorism centers under misleading Islamic slogans. They also use money made available from the budget of the host country to finance their terrorist activities.

The same sources add that the terrorist leaders have distributed themselves and their roles over a number of countries. They moved their command centers from Afghanistan and Pakistan to some European capitals and left the elements assigned to carry out the operations in Sudan. The sources affirm that the al-Jihad Organization, like the Islamic Group, has set up a terrorist center in Sudan. Leading figures from the al-Jihad visit the camp [as received] to acquaint themselves with the plans and training then push these elements into Egypt before returning to their main centers in Europe.

Envoy in Sanaa: Everything 'Proceeding Normally'

NC2511142495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1310 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 25 Nov (MENA)— Egyptian Ambassador in Sanaa 'Adil Subhi has stated that everything is proceeding normally in the Egyptian embassy and that all the staff are performing their jobs normally without any obstructions.

The ambassador added in a statement to MENA that the Yemeni authorities have tightened security measures around the embassy and that all precautions have been taken to secure the Egyptian establishments in Yemen.

He expressed his full satisfaction with the cooperation the Yemeni authorities are showing, referring to the visit Yemeni Interior Minister Colonel Husayn 'Arab paid to the embassy, accompanied by leading ministry officials.

Ambassador to Israel Views Baraq's Statements

NC2611073395 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 26 Nov 95

[Telephone interview with Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni, in Tel Aviv, by Muhammad al-Aswad in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue from Afar" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Aswad] Mr. Ambassador, you recently met with new Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq. What impressions have you come out with from this meeting?

[Basyuni] New Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq sent a clear message, namely that Egypt has an extremely important role in the peace process. This is why he

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was eager to receive the Egyptian ambassador to Israel on his first day of duty so as to prove that Egypt has a major role and to indicate that he is looking toward establishing ties and opening close channels of communications with Egypt and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to work toward giving impetus to the peace process. Despite his military background — he was the Israeli Army's chief of staff — I came out with the impression of his genuine desire to achieve peace and progress on the various tracks, especially the Syrian one.

[Al-Aswad] Many observers believe that Baraq's statements do not call for optimism about achieving enough progress in the peace process. These statements concern Jerusalem and some Palestinian areas. Following this meeting, what do you believe were the reasons for these statements and to whom were they addressed?

[Basyuni] First, we will speak about Jerusalem at the start of the final stage negotiations. Our stand on Jerusalem is clear. Statements on Israel's stand are made from time to time. We will put this issue on the negotiating table during the talks about the final phase which will be held in May 1996. We will voice our clear and candid stand on this issue.

[Al-Aswad] How do you view the future of the peace process in light of what you personally heard from the Israeli foreign minister and the statements made by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and cabinet members?

[Basyuni] From my meetings with new Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and with the foreign minister and in light of my former acquaintance with all the cabinet members, I can say that there is a genuine desire to comply with the Oslo 2 agreement with the Palestinians. There is a pledge and a commitment to implement the redeployment from five main Palestinian cities and complete it by 31 December 1995, then to hold the elections to elect the Palestinian Authority members on 20 January 1996, and to redeploy from Hebron in March 1996. The talks on the final stage will then begin in May 1996. There is a pledge and a commitment to implement this agreement according to the timetable agreed on. Then efforts will be made in an attempt to reach an agreement on the Syrian track before the end of this government's tenure in 11 months — the elections will be held on 29 October 1996 — so that the agreement with Syria will be presented to the people as the Peres government's elections program. There is a desire to reach agreements on the Palestinian and Syrian tracks before the next elections.

[Al-Aswad] But about the prospects for the Lebanese track?

[Basyuni] The Lebanese track is quite clear. Israel has no demands and recognizes the international borders with Lebanon. Israel will withdraw from south Lebanon when an agreement and security arrangements are reached with Lebanon. There is no problem over the Lebanese territories. Israel only has to withdraw from south Lebanon and a peace agreement can be signed following an agreement on security arrangements. This will be done as part of the overall solution on the Palestinian, Syrian, and Lebanese tracks.

Libya

Gulf Tremors Reported as Israeli Nuclear Explosion

NC2411204795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports said that a strong earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale yesterday hit Arab areas in occupied Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan. They added that the earthquake's epicenter was the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba. The reports also said that the inhabitants in the Arab areas last night felt the new earthquake, which was stronger than the one that hit the area the day before yesterday and which killed at least 10 persons and damaged a number of houses and buildings.

Geologists have revealed that the earthquakes which have hit a number of areas in the Arab homeland and whose epicenter was the Gulf of Aqaba were the result of a nuclear explosion rather than an earthquake. The geologists said that no such strong earthquake has occurred in the past and that the latest earthquake fanned out in a circular pattern with the Jordanian Gulf of Aqaba as its epicenter. No natural earthquake could fan out in such a circular pattern to hit the areas affected by the explosion. These geologists stressed that what really happened was a nuclear explosion made by the Israeli enemy under the Gulf of Aqaba. They noticed that the Arab countries have remained silent about this nuclear explosion by the Israeli enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi on 'Conspiracy' of Barcelona Summit

NC2611220795 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The brother leader of the revolution has stressed that the so-called Barcelona conference, which will open tomorrow, is an international conspiracy seeking to divide the Arab nation between Barcelona and the Middle East concept. In an interview with the BBC Arabic service this evening, the brother leader of the revolution said: My opinion of this conference is clear: it is an international conspiracy against the Arab nation, part of an attempt to fragment

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the Arab nation between Barcelona and Mideasternism. He added: This is a very serious conference because it brings together a weak party—the Arabs—and a strong one— Europe. The strong party will dictate its will on the weak, and all the serious and adverse items on the Barcelona agenda will be imposed on the weak by the strong. We do not interfere in Europe's political, administrative, and judicial systems, but the Europeans can interfere in ours.

Asked if it is possible for the Great Jamahiriyah to participate in this conference, the brother leader said: Even if Libya is unanimously invited to the conference today, it will not attend. This is a serious conspiracy, and if Libya attends, it will lose its position as a leader of the Arab stance and its militant position in confronting attempts to hegemonize, encroach upon, and contain the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

On the participation of Arab countries in the conference and the fact that these countries do not share this opinion with the Great Jamahiriyah, the brother leader said: On the one hand, these countries are helpless and not independent, and on the other, they are economically in need. He explained: This means that some Arab states, wanting to protect their political systems, depend on America and the Israelis. They beg to recognize the Israelis so that America will be pleased with them and so that their regimes will enjoy the umbrella of U.S. protection. This is one reason. The other reason is that some Arab countries are experiencing hard economic situations, and they hope to receive U.S. aid. They, therefore, play on some sensitive cords to please them, move in this direction, sing to this tune, and beg the Israelis to pressure the Americans to give them aid. Ultimately, this is a sellout of independence and dignity. By doing this, the Arab nation lives without dignity and future, and it demolishes its future; it loses its dignity.

The leader of the revolution added: We have no choice but to struggle against Barcelona, against Mideasternism, and against the normalization of relations with the enemy, especially that what is falsely called Israel is attending this conference. We will not recognize something called Israel until the day of judgment. Palestine is a source of dispute, and any political entity currently existing on Palestinian territory cannot, according to international legality, be invited and recognized. No authority on this land is being recognized.

The Arabic section of the BBC will broadcast the second part of the interview it held with the brother leader of the revolution later.

Foreign Liaison Committee Assails Conference

LD2711093295 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 27 Nov — The General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has issued the following statement on the so-called Barcelona conference due to be held on 27 and 28 of the current month:

At the invitation of the European Union a ministerial conference of the European Union member countries and a number of the Mediterranean countries is to be held on the 27th and 28th of current month to discuss issues relating to security and cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

Since the Great Jamahiriyah is a state which occupies one third of the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea and its security and development would be affected by any political and economical arrangement that might be adopted for this region, therefore it would like to make clear the following:

First: The European Union through this conference is seeking to lay down a new framework for the European Mediterranean relations through which it would implement and perpetuate its concepts in the Mediterranean region in a way that would realize Europe's objectives and interests.

Second: This conference is considered a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of the region's states and an attempt to impose hegemony on and exploit the region with the aim of controlling its natural resources [words indistinct] mutual respect and common interests.

Conference Called 'Interference' in Arab Affairs

LD2611172695 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1550 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 26 Nov — An official source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has denied the Moroccan press agency's report of remarks made to the Algerian ECH-CHAAB regarding the so-called Barcelona conference, attributed to the brother Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Concerning the position of the Great Jamahiriyah vis-a-vis the aforementioned conference, the source said we consider it as an interference in the Arab nation's internal affairs. The Great Jamahiriyah, he added, calls for dialogue between the countries of the Mediterranean region, but not in the framework in which the so-called Barcelona conference is being held.

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Minutes of Meetings With Egypt Signed

LD2411150195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In Tripoli yesterday the minutes of the meetings on improving cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Arab Republic of Egypt were signed. The signing of the minutes completed the fourth session of the Libyan-Egyptian higher committee which was convened in Cairo last year. Many programs which underscored the depths of the brotherly relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Egypt were agreed during these meetings. [passage omitted]

Official Claims UN Has Lost Credibility

LD2611140395 Tripoli JANA in English 0905 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Harth [November] 26, (JANA) — The secretary of the general people's committee for foreign [external] liaison and international cooperation asserted that the United Nations lost its credibility in the eyes of the peoples of the world after this organisation became a hostage to America running it in a way serving its colonialist interests. In an interview published by the Algerian newspaper al-Chaab on the fringes of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] Summit Conference in Colombia recently, the secretary of the general people's committee for foreign liaison and international cooperation urged the NAM to fulfil its responsibilities and assert itself so as to confront the policies of domination being imposed on smaller nations by the major powers and assert itself as a movement with its objectives and aspirations.

The secretary pointed out that the stance of the NAM Summit Conference in support of the Great Jamahiriyah, as expressed in the summit final communique, confirmed the extent of international support enjoyed by the Great Jamahiriyah's stance in the so-called Lockerbie issue.

He stressed that the Great Jamahiriyah dealt with the so-called Lockerbie issue in a civilised manner but the concerned Western countries did not respond to the initiatives submitted towards a just solution to this issue and that these countries continue to persist in their stance without looking for the truth.

'Source' on Chad Statement on Return of Nationals

LD2511153595 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1444 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 25 Nov — In remarks on media reports quoting a statement by the Chadian Foreign Ministry on the return to their country of Chadian nationals who had illegally entered the Great Jamahiriyah, a source at the General People's Committee for Unity made the following points:

1. An agreement had previously been reached between the Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Chad on organizing the movement and residence of nationals in the two countries on the basis of the availability of valid passports and entry visas, in addition to the necessary health requirements, prior to the entry of the two countries' nationals.

2. Agreement had also been reached on the return of Chadian nationals who had no valid documents and those who had no employment contracts in Libya, in accordance with official minutes, the last of which was the agreement signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice and Public Security and the Chadian interior minister in October .

3. The competent authorities in the Great Jamahiriyah and the Chadian Embassy are coordinating the organization of the return of Chadians who do not fulfill the residence and employment conditions, in accordance with the agreements signed between the two countries.

Participation in UK Murder Investigation Sought

LD2711103795 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, 27 Nov (JANA) — The Libyan news agency, JANA, learned from a source at the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation that the office looking after Libyan Arab interests in Britain asked the British Foreign Ministry for permission for the competent authorities in the Jamahiriyah to participate with the British authorities in investigating the killing of Libyan Arab citizen 'Ali Muhammad Abu Zayd who was found dead in London.

Sudan

Planes Reportedly Piloted by Iraqis Attack in West

NC2511154295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sudanese opposition Ummah Party disclosed yesterday that Sudanese military aircraft piloted by Iraqi officers have carried out raids with chemical weapons on four regions in western Sudan.

The Sudanese Ummah Party said the raids killed many innocent, defenseless civilians and destroyed livestock and vast areas of farm land.

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Minister Announces Move To Boost Links With South

EA2511154995 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, minister at the federal rule office, has stated that trips are to begin immediately from Juba to Kapoeta, Equatoria region southern Sudan, and they will be continuous.

His Excellency emphasized, addressing the opening of the legislative assembly of Bahr al-Jabal state, the cohesion of the internal front in the state. He commended the government of Bahr al-Jabal, which has been completely liberated. He said the government would strive to strengthen communications between the Equatoria states. He confirmed the stability of security there.

Returnees From Libya Urged To Join PDF

EA2511155295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Engineer Adam Ahmad Yusuf, acting governor of northern Darfur state, has called on returnees from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, to join the March of Sudan's civilizational construction and to deter the conspiracies by joining the People's Defense Forces [PDF] and the popular police. He made the comments when addressing groups of Sudanese returning from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Mellit town.

His Excellency affirmed that the federal and state governments paid great attention to the returnees from the Jamahiriyah. He pointed out that the state preserves the honor and dignity of every citizen. He said their return from abroad would increase the strength and power of the country.

The acting northern Darfur governor held a meeting with local leaders in Mellit, (?local councils) and customs authorities during which a number of (?solutions) were laid down in order to cope with the arrival of large numbers of returnees over the next two days.

Government Restricts Currency Movement

EA2611172495 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers held its regular meeting at the premises of its general secretariat today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the president of the Republic. The meeting passed a temporary order amending the 1995 Currency Regulation Act. The amendment was presented by Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Ahmad Hamzah, minister of state at the Ministry of Finance and Economy. The amendment prohibits dealing in Sudanese currency outside Sudan except in amounts permitted by regulations.

Mr. 'Abd-al-Wahab Ahmad Hamzah said the amendment is a result of the government's effort to avoid the effects of another amendment introduced into the act when the economy was liberalized in 1992, which caused negative economic effects, reflected by the smuggling abroad of large amounts of Sudanese currency, which affected the volume of the currency in circulation in the country.

Tunisia

Tunis Hopes For 'Historic Decisions' in Barcelona

BR2411154195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1329 GMT 23 Nov 95

[Unattributed report: "Tunisia Hopes for 'Historic' Decisions at Barcelona Meeting"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tunis, 23 Nov (EFE) — The Tunisian Government hopes that the Barcelona Euro-Mediterranean Conference will take "historic decisions" for the future of this sensitive area, and point toward, among other things, greater economic cooperation and cooperation in the area of the struggle against terrorism.

A spokesman of the ruling party, the Democratic Constitutional Assembly (DCA), spoke to this effect today and reaffirmed Tunisia's full support for the conference's aims.

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya will lead this country's delegation, with instructions to demand that it be taken into account that development on the two shores of the Mediterranean should be accompanied by social balance.

Tunisia's diplomacy is working to promote its candidacy for the seat of the body which will have to follow up the conference's decisions, if it is decided to set up a standing secretariat.

Tunisia was the first North African country to sign last July an association agreement with the European Union which should end in the creation of a free trade area within 12 years.

The agreement lays down the terms for the gradual liberalization of the exchange of goods, services, and capital, and also promotes cooperation in the economic, social, cultural, and financial sectors.

The Tunisian delegation will express in Barcelona its anxieties about the phenomenon of Islamic extremism

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and the need for its proponents not to benefit from political asylum in the European countries in order to carry out destabilization processes in their places of origin.

Tunisia, Egypt, and Algeria form the group of southern shore countries most intently seeking international coordination in the struggle against terrorism, although the Tunisian leaders believe that that danger has completely disappeared in their country.

The principle of equality between interlocutors will be another of the aspects to which Tunisia will direct the greatest effort, as well as to championing its proposal of seeing the southern countries' foreign debt turned into a fund for development.

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Kuwait

Minister Welcomes Bosnian Peace Agreement

LD2211145895 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1325 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 22 Nov — 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for the Council of Ministers' Affairs, planning minister, and acting foreign affairs ministers, welcomed today the agreement reached between the parties to the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the peace conference in the American town of Dayton.

Al-Dakhil said in a press statement that the State of Kuwait "welcomes and supports this agreement, and hopes it will contribute toward ending the agony of the friendly people of Bosnia-Herzegovina".

Al-Dakhil expressed hope that "the adherence of all the signatory parties will lead to a change toward peace and construction after the phase of war and destruction."

Oman

Prisoners 'Involved in Banned Organizations' Released

JN2211161095 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pursuant to the orders of his majesty the sultan, may God preserve him, to pardon the prisoners involved in banned organizations and issues in the Sultanate of Oman, 139 prisoners were released today on the 25th anniversary of the glorious national day.

This came in a statement issued today by the Omani police. The relatives of the released prisoners received their sons who have returned to their families and relatives. The statement said none of those involved in the aforementioned issues remained in prison.

Saudi Arabia

Indian National Dies of Riyadh Blast Wounds

NC2311120495 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 23 (AFP)—An Indian man has died of wounds he received when a car bomb ripped through a US military building on November 13, bringing to seven the number of people killed in the blast, the US embassy said Thursday [23 November].

"The bomb that exploded at the Office of the Program Manager for the Saudi Arabian National Guard in Riyadh on November 13 has just stolen another life — that of Mr. Bala Krishna," Ambassador Raymond Mabus said.

"A number of people remain in hospital, one in critical condition," Mabus said in a statement faxed to AFP.

Five Americans and another Indian were killed and up to 60 people wounded in the bombing of the building which US army officials used to train the national guard.

The US government meanwhile offered a two million dollar reward for information leading to an arrest in the bombing. The announcement follows an 800,000 dollar reward offered by Saudi authorities in the case.

Three hardline Islamic groups demanding the departure of US troops from Saudi Arabia have claimed responsibility for the attack.

The investigation is being conducted by Saudi authorities and two dozen agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), who arrived from Washington a day after the bombing.

"The investigation of the bombing incident continues," Mabus said. "We are assisting the Saudi authorities in their efforts to track down the perpetrators of this barbarous act and bring them to justice."

"We are also working closely with the Saudi authorities to enhance the security of Americans and American installations," he said.

"The embassy has enhanced its own security measures and remains constantly in touch with the American community to keep all Americans in Saudi Arabia fully abreast of any information in this regard and to advise them on what precautions need to be taken," he said.

"Americans are advised to exercise prudence but to go about their daily business," he said.

Description of Suspected Bomber Issued

LD2611140195 Riyadh SPA in English 1319 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 26, SPA — An official security source at the Ministry of the Interior stated today that the current investigation on the blast which ripped through a National Guard training facility on Monday 20-6-1416 h, corresponding to 13-11-1995, has shown that the car suspected to have been used in the operation was a small white pick-up truck — probably a Mitsubishi '81 model.

One of the important witnesses in this case said he saw the car parked at the site of the explosion a few minutes before the blast. He also said he saw two men sitting inside the truck. He gave a fairly accurate description

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of the person sitting next to the driver, as follows: Age: between 30 and 40 years old. Height: between 167-170 cm. Size: well-built, neither thin nor fat. Hair: black hair and black moustache. Clothes: He was wearing a shirt with white and red checkers, and a pair of trousers.

The source pointed out that the suspect might have changed his clothes or some of his facial features. Security authorities have managed to prepare a drawing of the suspect's face according to the description of the witness, who confirmed that the picture was 95 percent accurate.

The witness added that he saw the two persons step out of the car and walk towards the Thirty Street in Olaiya district. The blast occurred a few minutes afterwards and caused several deaths and injuries in addition to damages which have been declared already.

The source urged citizens and residents to cooperate with security authorities in their attempt to identify the man in the picture, or reveal any information which could assist the security agencies in arresting this man.

Information can be extended to the governorate of any region or any other domestic security agency. People outside the kingdom who have any information about this person can contact Saudi embassies or consulates, or call the telephone numbers previously mentioned, which are: 01-4421739 and 01-4419361 in Riyadh.

Once the information has been verified and the suspect has been caught and convicted, the informer will be entitled to receive the SR [Saudi riyals] 3 million reward.

The source stressed the importance of having citizens and residents cooperate with security agencies in the search for this suspect and offer any information which could lead to his arrest.

Russian Embassy Condemns Riyadh Bomb Attack

LD2211214095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation has expressed its condemnation and denunciation of the bomb attack which happened in Riyadh on Monday, 13 November. In a statement released today by the Russian embassy in Riyadh, the Russian Foreign Ministry said: We heard in Moscow, with the utmost regret and pain, news of the terrorist act which took place in Riyadh and the casualties it caused. The ministry also strongly deplored the existence of some extremist forces which resort to terrorism as a means to achieving their evil objectives.

The ministry added: While we express our heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims, we would like to stress once again that we categorically reject such methods and condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Asif Ali Visits

Meets With Saudi Counterpart

LD2211164695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1525 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 22 Nov — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received at his office this afternoon His Excellency Sardar Asif Ali, minister of foreign affairs in the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, who is currently visiting the Kingdom in the framework of the constant consultations between the two countries aimed at following up issues of common interest.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mansuri, undersecretary for political affairs in the Foreign Ministry and head of the General Department for Islamic Affairs; Ambassador Muhammad Fayiz al-Sharif; Ibrahim Qabbani, head of the General Department for Asian Affairs; the delegation accompanying the Pakistani minister; and Shahid Amin, Pakistan's ambassador to the Kingdom.

Discusses Plan To End Afghan War

BK2311023895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have agreed on an action plan to help end the Afghan conflict. They have proposed the formation of a broad-based leadership involving the warring factions. The three-point action plan was announced by Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali at the end of his one-day visit to Saudi Arabia, during which he met Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Talking to newsmen, the foreign minister said the action plan involves the transfer of power to a consultative council, demilitarization of Kabul, and the creation of a neutral Afghan peacekeeping force that would maintain law and order in Kabul and clear heavy weapons from around the Afghan capital.

The leadership would include representatives of President Borhanoddin Rabbani, Taleban, General Rashid Dostam, former Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar, former President Mojaddedi, and the Hezb-e Wahdat organization.

The Pakistani foreign minister said the action plan is based on proposals from the United Nations and the

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Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], which are trying to help mediate between the warring groups in Afghanistan.

OIC Assistant Secretary General (Ibrahim Saleh al-Bakr) has had talks with several Afghan groups at the Towr Kham border on certain new proposals for establishing lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Saudi Press Welcomes Bosnian Peace Accord

LD2311131095 Riyadh SPA in English
1250 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Nov 23, SPA — Most Saudi newspapers on Thursday [23 November] devoted their main editorials to welcome the recent peace accord signed in Dayton, Ohio to end the four-year old devastated war in former Yugoslavia.

The Dammam-based, AL-YOUM, expressed satisfaction that the peace accord has been reached despite the so many doubts that still being felt by the Bosnians and other parties of the conflict on the seriousness of the agreement and whether it could be firmly implemented. The paper expressed confidence that the US-led NATO military forces, which will be deployed to observe the implementation of the accord, would prevent any setback. It said time has come for lifting the economic sanctions imposed on Serbia and the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian Muslims since 1992.

AL-BILAD, of Jeddah, termed the peace accord initialed in Dayton on Tuesday as an important step for restoration of peace and stability to the Bosnian republic after a war that claimed more than 250,000 people and displaced millions.

The paper emphasized the importance that the Serbians, Croats and the Bosnians should abide to the articles of the peace accord despite the discontent and disappointment expressed by Bosnian Serbs over the agreement.

AL-MADINAH, also published in Jeddah, expressed happiness on the peace accord and praised the significant role undertaken by President Bill Clinton who sponsored the negotiations that led to the agreement.

The paper said the agreement represents the minimum level to what could be accepted by the conflicting parties and at the same time it has proven the dynamic and success of the U.S. diplomacy in dealing with the Bosnian crisis.

The Riyadh-based, AL-RIYADH and AL-JAZEERAH also welcomed the agreement. AL-JAZEERAH termed the achievement as a success of the U.S.-led international efforts. AL-RIYADH said the agreement could be regarded as a brilliant success for the American diplomatic efforts to settle the situation in that troubled part of the world.

Meanwhile the Jeddah-based, 'UKAZ, highlighted the remarks made by Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the minister of interior, during the opening session of a symposium on information during the haj season on the need for an integrated Islamic action on confrontation of the anti-Islamic hostile campaigns being waged by some media.

United Arab Emirates

Bomb Threat Forces Egypt Airplane To Land

NC2411183995 Paris AFP in English
1610 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubayy, Nov 24 (AFP) — An Egypt Air passenger plane flying between Islamabad and Cairo was forced to make an emergency landing Friday [24 November] in Dubayy after receiving what turned out to be a false bomb threat, a crew member said.

While the Airbus aircraft was flying over Oman, air traffic controllers in Muscat told the plane's crew that they had received an anonymous call saying there was a bomb on board the plane, the source said.

The plane, which was due to make a stop in Dubayy, made an emergency landing far from the terminal, and the passengers, mostly Pakistanis, were quickly evacuated.

Bomb experts and police searched the aircraft for three hours but did not find anything. The plane left early Friday evening for Cairo.

A car-bomb ripped through Egypt's embassy in Islamabad on Sunday, killing 17 people, including two Egyptian diplomats, in an attack claimed by three Egyptian fundamentalist groups.

Yemen

Interior Minister Meets With U.S. Envoy

LD2611213495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2030 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 26 Nov — Staff Colonel Husayn Muhammad 'Arab, the Yemeni interior minister, received today David Newton, the American ambassador in Sanaa. During the meeting, he discussed with him bilateral relations between the two countries, particularly in the security spheres, and the means to develop the security performance of the police corps in Yemen.

The interior minister also stressed during the meeting the importance of the security cooperation between the

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two countries, particularly in the sphere of combating terrorism and stamping out crime at the regional and international levels.

Ministry 'Source' Reports Threats to Egypt Embassy

NC2411155095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 24 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry said today that the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa yesterday received two successive bomb threats. Both threats were made by an old bearded man.

The man was reportedly driving a Land Rover. Next to him in the vehicle was a woman who had been seen previously walking around the embassy building.

The source added that the embassy security guard and a Yemeni sentry reported the incident to embassy officials, who then reported it to Yemeni security authorities so as to take the necessary measures.

'Source' Denies Reports

NC2511104495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sanaa, 25 Nov (MENA)—A responsible source in the Yemeni foreign ministry today denied radio and news agency reports about threats to the Egyptian Embassy in Sanaa. The source told Yemeni official news agency SABA' that these reports are baseless.

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KDP Welcomes U.S. State Department's Statement

JN2411201095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 95

[Statement by official spokesman of the Kurdistan Democratic Party; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] command assesses as positive the results of the third round of Kurdish peace talks, which were held in Iraqi Kurdistan 12-18 November under the auspices of the U.S. Administration. The KDP welcomes the 20 November statement by the U.S. State Department spokesman on the results of the talks.

The recent talks have produced positive results, and the KDP command has demonstrated flexibility and adopted objective criteria for settling the differences.

The KDP is committed to the peace process and the cease-fire. It will work to develop what has been achieved in order to reach a just solution in light of the agreement on principles signed in Drogheda, Ireland on 11 August 1995.

Throughout the talks, the KDP's objective was to attain justice and restore legitimacy to the regional authority for the attainment of security and stability in Iraqi Kurdistan.

[Signed] The KDP's official spokesman

SAIRI Head: U.S. Pursuing 'Colonial' Aims in North

LD2211204895 Tehran IRNA in English 2014 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA — Head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) described the recent U.S. political moves in northern Iraq as attempts imbued with "colonial incentives" and said the Kurdish people of Iraq, like the rest of the Iraqis are suspicious of American intentions in the region.

Ayatollah Baqir al-Hakim told IRNA on Wednesday that Washington pretends that its political moves in northern Iraq are aimed at brokering peace among rival Kurdish groups while the Iraqi people are aware that these efforts are part of American colonial interests in the region.

He added that the Iraqi people believe that the United States does not want to see any basic changes in Iraq and that its real goal is paving the ground for its presence in any future Iraqi political scenario and thus influencing the whole region.

The SAIRI head also mentioned that Iraqi people have not forgotten U.S. support for Saddam Husayn during the popular uprising against the Ba'thist regime in 1991 in the aftermath of the Iraqi forces expulsion from Kuwait.

He denied Western media reports on dispatch of the SAIRI 'Badr' corps to northern Iraq following the recent meeting between representatives of the two main Iraqi Kurdish groups in Tehran, and said these forces are based in the northern part of Iraq since 1980.

He pointed out that SAIRI was informed that presence of observers was one the questions discussed in the Tehran meeting between the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and given SAIRI's good ties with both sides, dispatching of SAIRI observers to northern Iraq was proposed as a contribution to peace settlement in the region.

On SAIRI talks with leaders of the two Kurish groups, Ayatollah al-Hakim revealed that in the October meeting in Tehran, agreement was reached on three points, namely the necessity of peace in northern Iraq, organized military action against the Iraqi regime as well as unity of all Iraqi forces.

In another part of his interview, al-Hakim refered to SAIRI activity in coordinating assistance from all over the world for distribution among Iraqi refugees in Iran.

He invited the Arab League and also the Organization of the Islamic Conference to form special committees in order to absorb humanitarian assistance from Islamic and Arabic countries.

SAIRI, KDP, PUK Agree on Military Cooperation

NC2411183295 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Iraqi opposition group has reached agreement with Kurdish groups in northern Iraq to carry out military actions against Saddam Husayn's regime.

A British newspaper, meanwhile, reported that Saddam Husayn is worried about Jordanian King Husayn's plan to convene meetings of the Iraqi opposition in Amman.

Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] announced that his group reached the above agreement with the two main Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, Mas'ud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] and Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], during a meeting with their representatives in Tehran in October.

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Al-Hakim added that the agreement focuses on three issues: the need to restore peace to northern Iraq, organizing military actions, and uniting all Iraqi opposition forces.

Sayyid al-Hakim denied earlier reports in the media that he had sent troops from SAIRI's Badr Corps to the Kurdish region in northern Iraq.

Foreign Minister Confers With French Delegation

JN2711065695 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf received a French parliamentary delegation from the French Senate and National Assembly and headed by Senator (Serge Matheue). The foreign minister stressed the importance of joint action in developing relations between Iraq and France and in providing opportunities for wider prospects.

The foreign minister spoke about the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council and Iraq's cooperation with the UN Special Commission. He pointed out that the outcome of this cooperation and the subsequent developments show that the Security Council should lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq and implement Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

The French delegation expressed its desire to foster bilateral relations in all areas and find the best formulas to coordinate efforts for more joint action within the Security Council as well as in other fields in order to expedite the lifting of the embargo imposed on Iraq and end the suffering of its people. The two sides also exchanged views on a number of issues of mutual concern.

French Official's Visit Said To Be a Failure

JN2711113795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 Nov 95 p 26

[Report by Hamdan al-Hajj]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-DUSTUR learned that last week's visit to Iraq by Denis Bouchard, head of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the French Foreign Ministry, failed to achieve its desired results, especially as Bouchard did not get a clear, positive, and direct Iraqi response regarding Resolution 986.

Informed sources told AL-DUSTUR that Iraq considers this Security Council resolution interference in its internal affairs and a violation of its national sovereignty, given that it stipulates that Iraq should sell oil to purchase medicine and food for its citizens, which made Bouchard's mission rather difficult.

Authoritative French sources in Paris and Amman told AL-DUSTUR that Bouchard's meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Foreign Minister Muhammad al-Sahhaf, and his deputy Riyad al-Qaysi; as well as senior Jordanian officials, were useful and fruitful. They reviewed all aspects of the tragic situation of the Iraqi people caused by the harsh embargo imposed on them for the past five years.

The sources pointed out that Bouchard reiterated France's position on Iraq and called on Iraq to comply with international unanimity without reservation. He said Resolution 986 is the best way to end the distressed conditions of the Iraqi people.

The sources added that the Iraqi authorities noted these remarks, gave the reasons for their reservations, and said they will respond soon. The sources hoped Iraq will implement the resolution, although there were no encouraging signs that the Iraqi people's suffering will soon be over.

Bouchard also met with senior officials from UN agencies and nongovernmental human rights organizations.

Foreign Minister Hopes To 'End Fences' With Egypt

NC2611144695 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 26 (AFP) — Iraq hopes to mend fences next year with Egypt and all the Gulf Arab states, including Kuwait, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said Sunday [26 November].

"We hope the year 1996 will see the re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Egypt as well as our brothers in the Gulf, without exception," al-Sahhaf told AFP in an interview.

Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990 before it was driven out by US-led forces seven months later in the 1991 Gulf War. In February 1991, Baghdad broke ties with Egypt, which had joined the military coalition against Iraq.

Al-Sahhaf said Iraq wanted to "normalize ties with all Gulf countries without exception" when asked about relations with Kuwait, which opposes normalization with Baghdad while President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

The foreign minister also urged Arab countries to support the president of the United Arab Emirates, Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, who called in October for lifting immediately the economic sanctions imposed on Iraq.

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Shaykh Zayid also called for a reconciliation among Arab countries.

Reportage on Car Bomb Explosion in Baghdad

Mojahedin-e Khalq Center Target

NC2711064195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0623 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (MENA)—A booby-trapped vehicle exploded early this morning near the main premises of the Iranian opposition organization, Mojahedin-e Khalq, in the center of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. The explosion damaged buildings and shops in the area but caused no casualties; there were no pedestrians at the time.

Farid Sulaymani, the organization's spokesman in Baghdad, said the Iraqi authorities immediately started to investigate the explosion caused by a booby-trapped Volkswagen bearing a "Baghdad Taxi" license.

He accused members of the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad of being responsible for the explosion, the 36th to target the Mojahedin-e Khalq center since 1993.

He called on the Iraqi authorities to apprehend the perpetrators quickly and also called for closing the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad, which he described as a den of terrorism.

Bomb Near Mojahedin-e Khalq Offices

JN2711124095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Nov (INA) — A boobytrapped taxi of Brazilian make with license plate No. 26438-Baghdad exploded at 2320 Baghdad time [2020 GMT] yesterday [26 November] near the central office of the Iranian Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in Baghdad.

INA learned that the explosion damaged nearby buildings. No casualties were reported.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization issued a statement blaming the Iranian Government for this terrorist act.

INA also learned that authorities are investigating the incident.

Mojahedin-e Khalq Statement Noted

NC2711111395 Paris AFP in English 1053 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Nov 27 (AFP)—A car bomb exploded near the offices of Iran's main armed opposition group in exile, damaging buildings but causing no casualties in the Iraqi capital, the group said on Monday [27 November].

"The very loud blast was heard throughout the area and damaged nearby buildings," the Mojahedin-e Khalq said in a statement that blamed Iran for Sunday's bombing.

"There were no casualties in this terrorist attack," it said.

Mojahedin-e leader Mas'ud Rajavi sent a telegram to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and the Security Council, calling for an "urgent review of the crimes of the terrorist and religious dictatorship ruling Iran," it said.

"The mullah's regime is involved in bombings and the carnage of innocent citizens of different countries around the world and crimes such as today's bomb blast are among its characteristic hallmarks," it said.

Husayn Kamil on Army Strength, Saddam Fedayeen

JN2611180795 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Nov 95 pp 32-35

[Second part of two-part interview with General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi defector and son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn, by Walid Abu-Zahr in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Abu-Zahr] What is the truth about the Iraqi military movements toward Kuwait last October. Did Saddam Husayn really want to invade Kuwait again and what for? Is it correct that you opposed the operation?

[Hasan] A decision was made then to enter Kuwait again. Military plans and arrangements were prepared and the competent officers were given the orders. The target was not only Kuwait, but also the eastern region in Saudi Arabia. The objective was to control Kuwaiti and Saudi oil. The Iraqi regime believed that controlling the Iraqi, Kuwaiti, and Saudi oil would facilitate the negotiations with the Americans and would make the Americans review the situation in the region in light of their interests.

I can confirm that the decision was made, plans were prepared, and the officers were given orders. I do not say this now only, but I said this in Baghdad and I spoke about the mistakes of entering Kuwait in August 1990. I personally was not happy with what happened, because this led our country into the abyss and harmed Iraq as it harmed Kuwait, which is also an Arab country, and created a new tragedy for the Arab people in Iraq and Kuwait.

My opinion was clear: We should rectify our domestic and external situation. At the same time, I, as a military man, do not fear war for personal reasons. All Iraqis and Army officers know that I directly participated in

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the war to defend my country, however, I was not happy about entering wars which led Iraq to deterioration, loss, and fragmentation. Today, the Iraqis inside and outside Iraq are in a tragic situation. Iraq, which is known for its economic potentials, should not have faced this disastrous situation caused by mistakes committed by the regime which made Iraq live in a continuous state of war.

[Abu-Zahr] Do these military movements, which aimed at invading areas beyond Kuwait, mean that the Iraqi Army still possesses the power it possessed before the occupation of Kuwait despite all that has been said about its destruction in the Gulf war?

[Hasan] No, the Iraqi Army does not have the might it had before 1990, however, it is strong enough to enter other areas if the military command orders this. Although some military commanders might object to this, the military carries out the orders.

[Abu-Zahr] Military experts believe that the Iraqi Army is no longer capable of carrying out sweeping operations, and that Saddam Husayn himself is no longer prepared to embark on any adventure, especially when he knows the results in advance?

[Hasan] These military experts are outside Iraq, but I am inside. I am the expert on the regime and the military system, and I know the strength of the Army and the way the regime thinks. I say that the Iraqi Army is capable of acting if it receives the order. I do not believe these experts mean what they say. If the Iraqi Army had been incapable, the regime would not have survived. The military force is the main force on which the regime depends. If there is no effective military force, how will the regime survive and who will protect it? Military experts are far from reality. If I had been far from this matter, I would have showed reservation, but I know the exact strength of the Iraqi Army.

[Abu-Zahr] Experts and analysts say that the only danger threatening Saddam Husayn's regime is a coup by the military establishment. Is this possible since you have helped the Iraqi president control and rebuild this establishment?

[Hasan] The military system is capable of changing. But the process should be carried out accurately and carefully without the so-called military coup, which, in its current formula, will fail or perhaps result in destruction. Studies should be conducted to bring about a successful change preserving Iraq's territorial integrity and preventing a civil war, which may be backed by certain states that have an interest in such a war in Iraq.

We completely rule out a successful military coup without accurate calculations and studies on a step-by-step basis. We have a very accurate and a very smart plan, of which some aspects are known. The Baghdad regime knows that there will be a change.

[Abu-Zahr] What is the basic element on which the regime depends today, and how can it be penetrated?

[Hasan] There is nothing that cannot be penetrated. Penetration, however, should be carried out in the right and successful manner. There are successful ways of penetration. We know this, and we will avoid matters that will not lead to a positive result or that will lead to the loss of the country. We know the loophole through which we can act.

[Abu-Zahr] What is the right scenario for toppling the regime? Is is a military coup, is it a popular uprising, or is it a civil war, and are there indications?

[Hasan] The change should be carried out by the military because the military is the dominating force in everything. No change can be brought about without force. The Baghdad regime does not depend on democracy, elections, or constitutional institutions, therefore, military force should be used but not in a tyrannical way that will harm the country. It should be accurate and successful. If we proceed from this point to the right organizational framework, we will be able to make a change quietly and without bloodshed. I cannot talk about it publicly and through the media organs because it is secret, however, in time, we will announce the overt aspect of it.

[Abu-Zahr] What is the influence of the "Saddam fedayeen battalions" which are supervised by 'Udayy?

[Hasan] These are groups which have no influence. When the country experiences a state of instability, talkative people become many. During our first war with Iran, there was a group of senior officers who had special allocations, prestige, and responsibility. However, during the war, the state found that these officers were no more than dry leaves. Iraq's true and brave army emerged, but those officers had no power or authority. Many of those who studied at institutes and colleges did not participate in the war. Only war exposes the true nature of men. These fedayeen cannot wage a war. Most of them have volunteered simply for fame and for bragging by saying that this man's son has joined the fedayeen. Where are the fedayeen? In the past, there was the experience of the Popular Army which was ridiculed by the world. Thus, the Popular Army was canceled, and we later had independent regiments which did not succeed. They are all similar experiences.

'Udayy wants to have a military force in any way. He found the solution in "Saddam's fedayeen." He has his own radio and television station. So, he believes

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that if he becomes in control of the situation, he can then broadcast a communique on the change from his radio. This is nonsense. 'Udayy is hated by the Iraqi people, the Army, and the party. He is even hated by the so—called cultural grouping. The major cultural personalities in Iraq have dissociated themselves from the grouping. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Zahr] What was the president's stand toward your opposition?

[Hasan] I do not believe the president has ever been shaken in his life as he was by my departure. [passage omitted] We want to restore life to the Iraqis in all fields, and the one who can do this is Husayn Kamil. This was the case from the beginning until the day we left Iraq. This is why the internal situation was shaken. It is the first time that presidential elections and military council elections take place, and now, they called for National Assembly elections. The change is continuing. Even regarding the journey to Amman; no Iraqi official, regardless of his rank, can now cross to Jordan until after the border post employee asks Baghdad: Shall I allow this official to leave or not? The answer will come from Baghdad despite the fact that this official had already obtained prior permission from the president of the republic to leave the country. They will be even more concerned in the near future, and you will see them becoming more confused than they are now.

Kamil Defection, U.S. Conditions Detailed

96LH0008A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 6 Oct 95 pp 22-23

[Report by Sa'id al-Qaysi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris — Following Husayn Kamil's defection to Amman and the Arab and U.S. activity that accompanied it, the Arabs and the Iraqis, including Saddam Husayn, were convinced that the time to topple the Baghdad regime arrived. However, everyone soon discovered that the West was not seeking Saddam's head. The defection has led to the intensification of U.S.-Iraqi contacts and the reopening of the lines of communication between Baghdad and Washington. The United States presented its conditions clearly, and Saddam Husayn promised to implement them. Iraq provided complete information on its mass destruction weapons. This was the beginning of what some Iraqi officials hoped would be a new era in the cooperation with the Americans.

What was the nature of U.S.-Iraqi contacts? What were Washington's goals and conditions to Saddam Husayn?

"The relations with the United States are complicated. I can affirm that the contacts between Baghdad and Washington have not been broken. However, the Iraqi leadership is having difficulty understanding the U.S. Administration's goals. Washington also has difficulty understanding Baghdad." This is how, by virtue of his present position or his contacts with Iraqi leaders, an important Iraqi official summed up the nature of U.S.-Iraqi relations. His analysis assumes greater importance because it was made following the defection of Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, and his brother, Saddam, and the Iraqi president's two daughters to Amman on 8 August.

There is no doubt that the Iraqi official's analysis of U.S.-Iraqi relations is unrealistic because it reflects, to a certain extent, the Baghdad regime's desire to talk directly with Washington. It does not take into consideration the changes that have taken place since the second Gulf war. Nevertheless, the views of an official who had played an important role in the contacts between the two capitals are important. They provide an insight into each capital's activity, clarify what is happening following Husayn Kamil's defection, and make us understand Baghdad's future plans.

Referring to Husayn Kamil's defection, the official says that this was a heavy blow to the Iraqi leadership because it directly affected the family, which is the first circle in the authority. He admits that the defection was a shock and a blow to the Iraqi president, who, for the first time, felt that he was isolated and went into deep depression. He even lost his tone in his meetings with military and party leaders.

However, what was more important were the regime's views of Washington's policy and the future of the relations with it. The Iraqi president reached the conviction, after Washington initiated military action in the Gulf, that the U.S. Administration was preparing a coup against him and that Husayn Kamil's defection was the green light for it. Saddam thought that the Americans were planning to support a movement to overthrow him by providing an air cover. Saddam Husayn wondered about the possibility of such a coup taking place with Arab support. He considered the Syrian concentrations on the Iraqi border as a precautionary step because, he thought, Damascus possessed information about the existence of a U.S. plan. He also viewed Iranian concentrations as part of this plan. All this reinforced the Iraqi president's conviction about the existence of a plan to overthrow him.

Consequently, Baghdad declared internal mobilization. Qusayy, Saddam Husayn's son and the man in charge of personal security, made quick changes in the Republican Guard. Saddam Kamil Husayn, who defected to Amman, was the commander of the Republican Guard.

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He deployed a number of brigades around Baghdad. The Saddam Fedayeen Battalions, established by Saddam Husayn's eldest son, 'Udayy, also were deployed in Baghdad. Washington monitored these military movements. It stated then that Baghdad had moved some military units perhaps for an operation against Jordan. The U.S. Administration declared that it will defend Jordan if it were attacked by Iraq. Saddam thought then that the time for the military strike had come and decided to take refuge in one of his secret hideouts. He did not seclude himself, as some reports said, following Husayn Kamil's defection.

Saddam's fear of a "deadly blow" prompted him to ask the officials responsible for contacts with Washington to ask about what is happening and monitor the U.S. Administration's intentions. They contacted Barazan al-Tikriti, Saddam Husayn's half-brother, in Geneva and Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent UN representative, in New York. Sa'dun Hammadi also held contacts through certain channels.

Indeed, contacts took place, particularly through New York, and with the parties with whom Nizar Hamdun maintained contacts. However, Washington's response was not specific and vague. Washington, according to the Iraqi official, asked for explanation about the reasons for the Iraqi military movements. We understood that Washington had doubts about Baghdad's intentions and was convinced, from experience, that Saddam might commit another mistake to extricate himself from his dilemma.

The Iraqi official adds: "The problem was that the relationship between the Iraqi group, which was responsible for contacts with the U.S. Administration, and Baghdad has always been tense. It was insincere and lacked trust. Washington was aware of this. Washington thought that we, in Baghdad, were detached from reality, and could not depend on us."

Indeed, there is a big gap and total lack of confidence between Washington and Baghdad. There is a lack of understanding of each other's intentions to the point where Baghdad, for example, used to ask Nizar Hamdun to ask about any U.S. statement made by a second grade official of the U.S. Administration, knowing that such statements do not reflect U.S. strategy. The Iraqi official explains: "Clinton still thinks that Iraq has not come to grips with the changes that have taken place in the region and that Baghdad, after five years of economic blockade, has maintained its defiant attitude to the United States. Therefore, getting a clear and specific position from the U.S. Administration was difficult. We have tried to obtain a clear position from Washington on two issues: The first pertains to Iraq's unity, and the second pertains to Iraq's future in the region. This was done at Baghdad's request. The American response came in the form of a question: What is your leadership's visualization? Hamdun could only say that Iraq can play a role in the region when the embargo is lifted, and this role is essential for stability in the region. Washington thought that this response indicated that Baghdad was maintaining its previous positions."

Therefore, the Americans think that the ball is in Baghdad's court. They think that the issue is whether the Iraqi leadership will agree to carry out what is demanded of it within the framework of the U.S. strategy. This strategy can be summed up as follows:

1. establishing security arrangements to ensure stability in the region and the flow of oil.
2. guaranteeing fair opportunities for American companies;
3. preventing the spread of mass destruction weapons;
4. establishing democratic economic and political systems.

As far as Washington was concerned, Saddam Husayn has not made any step toward accepting these principles. However, the Iraqi official thinks that the United States has not yet determined a position toward the Baghdad regime, because of the existence of different views on the issue. Regarding Iraq's unity, Washington is maintaining a pragmatic approach. It supports its unity, if that were possible. It has so far supported Iraq's unity, because this policy will check the Iranian threat. The United States also does not want its policy to conflict with Turkey's policy on this issue. Otherwise, it is leaving the door open to all possibilities.

For example, the Iraqi official says, we have learned, during our contacts, that Washington had two objectives in protecting the Kurdish region in northern Iraq. The first was to use this area as a staging post for supporting any opposition military movement against the regime. The second objective was to use the region in the containment policy against Iran. However, this policy has recently witnessed some changes because of the inter-Kurdish conflict. The region has become one of the channels for contact with Iran. The official adds: "I think that Mas'ud Barazani and Jalal Talabani did not make their visit to Tehran without American approval."

The Iraqi official affirms that Washington is aware that Husayn Kamil's defection has weakened the regime but not to the point where the regime can be overthrown. However, this defection could enable the United States to exert more pressure on Saddam to force him to change his positions, and this is what is happening. I hope he will change his positions.

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The first indication of this change was Baghdad's full cooperation with the UN commission on the elimination of mass destruction weapons. The other steps were hard to grasp. According to this official, the decision to shrink 'Udayy's role was made to appease the tribes that have complained about his authoritarian attitude and moral deviations and to appease the party. For example, during the recent mobilization against any possible American strike, it became clear that the party cadres did not take any action. They have lost the fear complex. For this reason, Saddam called for restoring the party's position and role. But in what way? This is unknown.

Another step was taken and no one knew why. During the recent crisis, Syria sent a Ba'th Party delegation, composed of party figures from some clans in Dayr al-Zur, in northeastern Syria. These clans are related to other clans in Iraq. The delegation members contacted their cousins in the party in Iraq. Baghdad's position at first was open-minded. This disturbed Washington because it maintains that any Iraqi-Syrian rapprochement will serve Damascus. Baghdad, however, maintained its reservations, thinking that the Syrian leadership is not serious about opening toward Iraq and that it was exercising a sort of pressure against Washington by threatening to restore its relations with Baghdad.

The Iraqi official says that Baghdad did not understand the U.S. implications of the recent move. He says: "Washington wanted to convey a message to the Iraqi leadership that the question of changing the regime is not on its agenda now, and that Iraq's future, without alliances, is on the agenda. This position was expressed in connection with the issue of Iraqi oil to Jordan. Contrary to reports, the U.S. Administration did not want to exert pressure to stop the flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan. Washington tried to persuade some Gulf states to supply oil to Jordan only if Iraq exerts pressure on Jordan and stops supplying it with oil."

The Iraqi official adds: "Had Washington wanted to stop the supply of Iraqi oil to Jordan, it would have done so, but it always leaves a door open to the regime, within permissible bounds. Currently, a door is kept open for Baghdad because this will help maintain the status quo until stability is reinforced in the area. Then, the U.S. Administration will consider the Iraqi issue."

He says: "Therefore, we tried to make Baghdad understand the situation so it could adopt open-door policies, as soon as possible, without aspiring for the lifting of the embargo or being a nuisance to Washington. One of these policies is to unconditionally accept the UN Security Council resolution that provides for a partial lifting of the embargo to allow Baghdad to sell $1 billion worth of oil. Baghdad is expected to accept this offer. We also asked — and this is a U.S. idea — that the government convert the military industries into civilian plants attached to the various ministries. This will also be a goodwill gesture toward Washington. Baghdad is expected to begin a move in this direction. We tried to convey messages to the leadership in Iraq to dissolve 'Udayy's militia because it constitutes, in Washington's view, a repressive tool against the people." But is this possible? he wonders, adding: "'Udayy's issue is extremely complicated."

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Baraq Meets Egyptian Envoy; Peres To Visit Egypt

TA2411124495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq this morning conferred with Muhammad Basyuni, the Egyptian ambassador in Israel, and discussed the recent difficulties in bilateral relations due to the dispute over the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, among other things. Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni invited Foreign Minister Baraq for an official visit to Egypt. Our political correspondent notes that Prime Minister Peres is due to visit Egypt in early December at President Mubarak's invitation.

Peres: 'Looking Forward' to Visit

NC2611184595 Cairo MENA in English 1809 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza, Nov 26 (MENA)—Israeli Premier Shim'on Peres said he is looking forward to visiting Egypt on December 7 to meet with President Husni Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on the latest Middle East peace process developments before he heads for Washington on December 9 to meet with U.S. President Bill Clinton on December 11.

Peres made the announcement at a meeting today with Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni.

Peres added that his visit to Egypt comes in appreciation of Egypt's cardinal role in the Middle East peace process .

The ambassador in a televised interview with MENA correspondent here said the Israeli premier was keen that the Egyptian ambassador was the first ambassador to meet with him after forming the Israeli government in acknowledgement of Egypt's pivotal role under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak in effecting peace in the region.

Ambassador Basyuni said the Israeli premier asserted his commitment to implementing the Taba and Washington agreements between Israel and the Palestinians regarding the re-deployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank elections, wider re-deployment and the beginning of talks on reaching a final solution in May.

Regarding the Syrian track, the premier stressed Israel's desire to realize peace with Syria, said the ambassador.

Official Fears Syrian Influence at Barcelona Summit

BR2411142095 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1046 GMT 23 Nov 95

[Unattributed report: "Israelis Optimistic About Barcelona Conference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem, 23 Nov (EFE) — The objectives set out by the countries in the southern part of the EU for the upcoming Euro-Mediterranean Conference, to be held in Barcelona, are in line with Israel's, which sees in it a driving force for development and peace.

The only point of hesitation in the official media is that, due to Syria's influence, the Barcelona Conference may turn into a new forum for airing problems regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"I do not mean that this conference cannot make a contribution to the peace process in the Middle East, but Syria is trying to debate matters which cannot be resolved in this kind of meeting," said Ran Curiel, the Israeli Foreign Ministry director of multilateral European organizations to EFE today.

The conference, which will kick off on Monday, 27 November, is to end with the Barcelona Declaration but there is currently no consensus due to differences between Syria and Israel.

On the margins of this preoccupation, "Europe's agenda is actually the same as ours," the official said, praising the EU's initiative to increase stability and encourage cooperation between the various peoples along the Mediterranean coast.

In the aftermath of the recent change of government due to the assasination of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, it was not yet known if his successor Shim'on Peres would be able to participate, but it is believed that the new foreign minister Ehud Barak will.

On Monday, 20 November Peres signed an important association agreement in Brussels in order to promote trade and cooperation with the EU, whose countries are the main markets for supplies and Israeli exports.

"Peres loves Europe" unlike other Israeli politicians, who lean more toward the United States, that country's main ally, "and Europe loves Peres," the local press is in the habit of saying.

Unlike his predecessor Rabin, the new prime minister (Peres) feels that — like Arab governments — the EU's participation, and not only economic participation, is vital in order to strengthen the peace process in the Middle East.

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"The EU initiative complements Israel's objectives," Curiel said. "We can only bless the initiative of Spain, which is in charge of the EU presidency, and the EU's willingness to tackle the small challenge of guaranteeing stability, security, and prosperity in the Mediterranean Coast," he added.

The EU is proposing to hand out donations and loans worth $6.1 billion to 12 Mediterranean countries, including the Palestine National Authority (PNA), which will be represented by its president, Yasir 'Arafat.

According to the Israeli official, "the interest of everyone in Barcelona — of Europeans, Arabs, and Israelis — will be to put the Mediterranean at the top of the international agenda" of the major investors.

"Israel is not going to Barcelona to look for money. We are interested in having Europe promote the Arab economies and our Foreign Ministry will offer contributions in the form of services with a monetary value, such as courses and technical assistance," Curiel said.

Due to the high incomes of their inhabitants, Malta, Cyprus, and Israel cannot benefit from these EU funds, although they can obtain indirect benefits if they participate in the execution of development projects financed with these funds.

Rejecting suspicions of alleged "Israeli expansionism" in order "to dominate the Arab economies," Curiel said that "we are prepared to help without imposing anything on anyone."

With less than 6 million inhabitants, Israel's gross national product is $16,000 per capita, while the country's GNP is $70 billion annually, more than Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and the Palestinians combined.

Israel was confident that the Euro-Mediterranean Conference "would initiate a process of economic development and regional cooperation, and not be turned into a political forum to air problems concerning the conflict in the Middle Eas."

Peres on Syria, Palestinian Track, Pollard

TA2711122195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres today made his first appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee as prime minister and defense minister. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports from the Knesset:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Shim'on Peres briefed the Knesset members [MK's] today on a series of issues. Referring to the Syrian issue, Peres said it was not Israel who proposed that the negotiations be stopped. He said Israel is willing to discuss every proposal. Peres rejected a remark that the katyushas that landed in the north today constitute the first Syrian statement on the negotiations. This was not a warm welcome, Peres said, but noted that we should not build a grand theory on the basis of one volley:

[Peres] All I can say is that we are interested in launching the negotiations; we are interested in conducting honorable negotiations; and we want these negotiations to bring peace and security to both sides.

[Unidentified correspondent] Over the past few days, the Syrian media has complimented you. Does this point to the possibility of future progress?

[Peres] Let me remind you that I am not an editor working for the Syrian media; consequently, I am not responsible for reprimands or compliments. I expressed my opinion as clearly and openly as possible at the beginning of the negotiations.

[Hecht] Sir, do you believe that granting Israeli citizenship to Jonathan Pollard will facilitate his release?

[Peres] I hope so. We granted him citizenship after 10 years had elapsed since he was imprisoned. I also plan to address a letter to the U.S. President on this issue.

[Hecht] With regard to the Palestinian issue, Peres is resolutely demanding that the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that call for Israel's destruction be annulled not later than two months after the elections to the Palestinian council. Peres demanded that the Palestine National Council [PNC], which passed these clauses, be the body that annuls them as well or that the PNC itself be disbanded:

[Peres] We were explicit on this point: If they fail to abolish these clauses, the train will come to a halt.

[Hecht] Finally, Shim'on Peres did not conceal his satisfaction with the recent remarks of National Religious Party [NRP] Chairman Zvulun Hammer regarding recognition of the Oslo accords:

[Peres] I think Mr. Zvulun Hammer made an extremely important statement. I welcome this statement, which is both courageous and realistic.

[Unidentified correspondent] Does this statement amount to recognition on the part of the opposition and the NRP of the policy implemented by the government to date?

[Peres] I think the answer is affirmative. We both recognize the same thing; he said this is in fact a new situation which nobody is proposing to change unless unpredictable security incidents occur.

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[Hecht] In his Knesset committee appearance today, Shim'on Peres was relaxed and well informed, and easily frustrated any attempt to involve him in sharp exchanges. [end recording]

Peres: No Message From Syria on Negotiations

TA2611125395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres reported to his first cabinet meeting that he has not received a new message from Syria on negotiations with Israel. Mr. Peres said that Israel has not received answers to the questions Yitzhaq Rabin transmitted to Damascus via mediators.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that Mr. Peres called for the establishment of a special ministerial committee to study the High Court ruling on Reform Judaism conversions. Meretz ministers voiced their opposition and said that such a matter requires prior consultations with them. The matter will therefore be raised for additional discussions next week.

The cabinet decided to set up a committee with the participation of the prime minister and Ministers Moshe Shahal and David Liba'i to look into bringing the Home Front Command into the new Ministry for Internal Security. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the government approved the appointment of Deputy Defense Minister Ori Or and Deputy Interior Minister Salih Tarif. The cabinet also approved the continued appointment of deputy ministers from the previous government, and it was officially decided to abolish the Ministry of Economy and Planning in late March. In the meantime, the prime minister will oversee the ministry and decide to which ministries its authorities will be transferred.

Savir Views Peace, 'Positive Signs' From Syria

NC2411191495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Uri Savir has emphasized that Syria has sent generally positive signs regarding peace since the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He made this statement during an exclusive interview with MBC correspondent in Jerusalem Manal Khudr. She asked him first if Israel has sensed any positive change in Syria recently.

[Begin Recording] [Savir, in English] I think in some of the background music, in some of the statements, not necessarily in the position. I think both Syria and Israel have to ask themselves a very simple question: If it is true that President al-Asad and Syria have made a strategic decision to make peace with Israel, as it is true, and I know that the late Prime Minister Rabin and the current Prime Minister Peres have made a decision to make peace with Syria, why didn't we make more progress? I will only say that we have an interest to make peace with Syria, that in our view we can make it before the Israeli elections, and that we would like to see a Syrian partner that doesn't see in the model of negotiations a price that they (?do) Israel. It must be out of self-interest.

[Khudr] How true is the information about you assuming the task of negotiating with the Palestinians and Syria?

[Savir, in English] I have been appointed coordinator of the various negotiation tracks and to coordinate between the various governmental agencies— the military wing and the civilian wing—and that what I will be doing on the Palestinian track, I may do it on the Syrian track as well. And we have one main intent, and that is to coordinate our policies effectively enough so that we have the most creative positions in the negotiations, the most creative modalities for negotiations, because Israel is interested in comprehensive peace in the region, not to stop in the middle where we are now, but to go to the very end of full comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The very little I can contribute, I will do. [end recording]

Weizman: Syria Must Make 'Tangible Gesture'

TA2611110895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President 'Ezer Weizman said that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has to make a tangible gesture in his policy toward Israel, while in Weizman's view there is currently no real movement in that policy. President Weizman said that he would be happy to meet President al-Asad, and expressed the hope that the foreign ministers of Israel and Syria will meet at the Barcelona conference. Our correspondent Ilan Ro'e reports that the president made the remarks while paying a visit to Golani soldiers on the Golan Heights.

Baraq: 'Serious Doubts' About Meeting al-Shar'

TA2711065995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq believes that within several weeks we will learn whether progress in Israeli-Syrian negotiations is possible. Baraq said that Israel has a long-term strategic interest in peace with Damascus, but that progress in the talks depends on the latter. Foreign Minister Baraq was

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speaking with correspondents who accompanied him on the flight to Barcelona. Today he will meet with Yasir 'Arafat and sign an agreement establishing relations with Mauritania. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports from Barcelona:

[Begin recording] [Raz] Ehud Baraq thoroughly prepared himself for the meeting with Yasir 'Arafat; he spoke with almost everyone in Israel who has met Yasir 'Arafat in order to study the man in anticipation of the first meeting between the incoming foreign minister and the head of the Palestinian Authority.

This meeting, however, is overshadowed by the main issue — namely, the negotiations with Syria. Foreign Minister Baraq has more than serious doubts about the prospects of a meeting between himself and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' during the Barcelona conference:

[Baraq] I do not believe that such a meeting will be held. I do not think so. Syria's longstanding and familiar position is that such meetings should not be held for ceremonial or formal purposes before the negotiations are at a very advanced stage. I do not think there will be a meeting.

[Raz] Minister Baraq says that both Israel and Syria have a long-term strategic interest to attain peace. He emphasizes, however, that progress in the negotiations largely depends on Syria:

[Baraq] Even if conditions have not actually changed, they have been jarred, and I believe that in the next few weeks we will know more. I do not think that today I can tell you anything more specific about this issue.

[Raz] The director general of your ministry says that Israel wants peace, and if Syria wants peace and the process is nevertheless stuck, this means that we are going about it the wrong way. Do you also believe the method of negotiations should be changed?

[Baraq] I think that we want peace, and I hope that Syria also wants peace. I assume that when two sides want peace, they will make an effort to find the right way to create a dialogue. I do not think we should grade past or future methods.

[Raz] This last remark may have been a gibe directed at Director General Uri Savir, coordinator of the peace talks.

Even if Ehud Baraq does not meet al-Shar' in Barcelona and even if he is unwilling to commit himself to anything relating to the negotiations between Israel and Syria, it is absolutely clear that there will be more developments on this track. [end recording]

Katyushas Reportedly Fired at Galilee

TA2711052695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Several katyusha rockets were directed at western Galilee this morning. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] returned fire.

IDF Spokesman Denies Reports

TA2711064795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has announced that based on checks carried out this morning, it transpires that no katyusha rockets were fired at the Galilee this morning. The IDF spokesman said that this morning there was a report on an explosion in the area and that the issue is still under investigation. There were no casualties, and no damage was caused.

Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the incident apparently involved mortar fire. The IDF returned fire.

2 More Katyushas Reportedly Land

TA2711092995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Two more katyusha rockets landed in western Galilee, near the Lebanese border, a short time ago. There were no casualties and no damage was caused in this incident as well. Our correspondent Moti 'Eden reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is currently shelling targets located north of the security zone.

Baraq on Palestinian Separation, Golan Withdrawal

TA2511135895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq said the volume of Palestinian activities inside what he termed a small Israel can be reduced significantly. The separation from the Palestinians need not be done in one single move, he said, but future security arrangements will require us to examine such a possibility.

Interviewed by our correspondent Gil Litman, Minister Baraq said that in the discussions on the permanent arrangement Israel will have in its hands many settlements and settlement blocs, despite the fact that the Palestinians will demand the uprooting settlements. According to the foreign minister, Israel will present broad opening positions in the discussions on the permanent arrangement: A large and broad Jerusalem that includes Ma'ale

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Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and the 'Etzyon Bloc, as well as a security and settlements in the Jordan Valley and other blocs.

As for the future of the Golan, Minister Baraq believes that from the purely military point of view it would make sense to remain on the Golan Heights even in times of peace, but that the decision will ultimately be a political one. The military level must give its professional opinion, while the political level must make the decisions, he said.

Dayan on Accords with Syria, Palestinians

TA2611111295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said on 24 November that, within the framework of the government efforts aimed at achieving national reconciliation and expanding the basis of its coalition and public support, "the government will not make any major decisions before the elections. Any agreement or arrangement attained will be brought to the people for them to vote on in the elections."

Speaking to high school students in Ofaqim, Dayan said that priority must be given to promoting the Palestinian economy, mainly the construction of industrial parks that create jobs. According to the deputy foreign minister, the public must be made aware of the principles that will guide the government in making the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians: "united Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty; keeping the settlement blocs in the 'Etzyon Bloc and western Samaria; and the Jordan River as the security border." Regarding Syria, Dayan said: "We will make a great effort to attain an arrangement. We will be willing to pay a painful price, but in return, we will ask for a comprehensive peace, normalization, and defensible borders."

[Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew on 26 November publishes on page 2 a similar report by Arye Dayan which adds that "Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan said that within the framework of negotiations on the security arrangements in the peace agreement with Syria, Israel will aspire to set up ground warning stations on the Golan Heights, and to station foreign military forces, mainly American, to supervise the arrangements attained."

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 26 November publishes on page 2 a related report by Ilana Baum which cites Dayan as telling the audience in Ofaqim that "in the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, we will have to evacuate some 40 settlements in Judaea and Samaria."]

Army Source: Peres Opposes Green-Line Fence

TA2611125595 Tel Aviv DAVAR RISHON in Hebrew 26 Nov 95 p 1, 3

[Report by On Levi and Arye Dayan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, is opposed to erecting a fence to separate Palestinian Authority [PA] territories from the Green Line, senior army sources said. They claim that the prime minister instructed Minister for Internal Security Moshe Shahal and Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq to prepare an alternative plan to the fence separation idea and to present it to him in the coming days.

In a discussion Peres held with defense establishment heads, including Minister Shahal, the prime minister rejected the idea of erecting a fence along the line separating the PA and the settlements inside the Green Line. The prime minister made it clear that he is concerned that such a fence would prematurely fix the borders for the permanent settlement.

The prime minister's position is different from that of the late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Two weeks ago, Peres toured the settlements along the dividing line and studied closely the separation plan and the idea of building a fence between the Green Line and the PA.

After studying the issue, the prime minister announced his opposition to the fence, ordered a halt to all activity, and instructed the defense establishment to present within a short time an alternative plan, which would foil infiltrations by hostile elements, terrorists, or thieves, from the PA into Israel.

A senior military source told DAVAR RISHON last night that Peres' decision has surprised the army. "The electronic fence was to have been completed in 18 months to two years, and its cost was going to be very high."

Senior defense sources said that in the wake of Peres' decision there might be certain changes in the autonomy maps as agreed upon with the Palestinians. He said that the decision not to erect a fence will require wider demilitarized zones on both sides of the dividing line, within the brown areas under the PA's authority and inside the Green Line.

The defense sources said that these areas will serve as wider buffers and early warning areas and give the security forces more space and time to react. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will recommend introducing

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into those areas night-vision equipment and electronic identification measures, and will request that more Border Police be deployed in the areas inside the Green Line.

According to the same sources, a decision not to erect a fence could create a major problem in the Tulkarm and Qalqilyah areas where houses and agricultural lands touch on Israeli houses and lands within the Green Line. This includes Bat Hefer, where under the original plan, a brick fence was supposed to have separated its houses from those of the autonomy.

At the same time, Peres called for the completion of security arrangements in the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that behind the prime minister's decision not to erect the fence separating the PA and Israel is a new political concept being worked out in the prime minister's bureau and Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq's office.

That concept, which will find expression in the positions Israel presents at the opening of the discussions on the permanent settlement with the Palestinians, is different from that which guided Yitzhaq Rabin.

Peres' reservations about the fence idea and the physical separation plan between Israel and the PA date from the previous government. When the discussions on the separation idea began in the wake of the terrorist attack at Bet Lid, Peres openly opposed the idea. The separation plan is based on the idea that Israel can now start marking the initial border between Israel and the PA. Peres' concept, on the other hand, is that Israelis and Palestinians will continue living in the West Bank, and will be functionally rather than geographically separated.

Two weeks ago when he visited the Janin area immediately after control of the town was transferred to the PA, Peres had reservations about separation by a fence and spoke in favor of setting up industrial parks along the dividing line, which would provide employment for the Palestinians, help lift their standard of living, and create good ties between them and their Israeli neighbors.

Under the concept now being studied, the political sources said, most of the settlements would remain where they are even within the framework of the permanent settlement.

The small and isolated settlements would be evacuated and transferred, if that is what their residents want, to blocs of large Jewish settlements, which would remain under Israel's sovereignty.

This plan would create on the West Bank a map of Palestinian enclaves under PA control alongside Israeli enclaves under Israeli control and sovereignty.

Foreign Minister Baraq, who in recent days has spoken twice about the positions Israel will present at the outset of the negotiations on the permanent settlement, drew a map which in its general outlines conforms to that concept. "In the deliberations on the permanent settlement, we will have to keep lots of settlements and blocs of settlements, although the Palestinians will call for dismantling them," Baraq said yesterday.

Our opening positions will be wide ranging: a greater Jerusalem, which includes Ma'ale Adumim, Giv'at Ze'ev, and the 'Etzyon bloc; a security and settlement hold on the Jordan Rift Valley; a settlement bloc in western Samaria, and a corridor linking it and the other settlement blocs."

Pullout To Proceed Before Bypass Roads Built

TA2411131595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Nov 95 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior Central Command officer stated yesterday: We have no choice but to follow the decisions of the government and the political level. It is clear to us that we will not be able to finish paving all the bypass roads in the West Bank before the evacuation and that in some cases the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will evacuate towns before the bypass roads are completed.

The late Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated on 5 October 1995: "I would like to emphasize that work to bolster security measures for the Israeli settlements — such as fences, bypass roads, lighting, and electric gates — will continue. The purpose of the bypass roads will be to enable Israeli settlers not to have to drive through Palestinian locations that will be transferred to the Palestinian Authority. In any event, the IDF will not pull out of the seven main cities before the bypass roads are completed. The total investment in the bypass roads will be 500 million shekels."

A document obtained by HA'ARETZ shows that the planning of certain bypass roads — Psagot-Kokhav Ya'aqov, Ramallah east, Ramallah north, Ramallah-Bet El — will be completed only in 1996, while the IDF will evacuate Ramallah before that.

The document shows that the Bethlehem bypass road is scheduled to be completed in March 1996, but that in practice the IDF will leave the city before Christmas.

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Military sources in the Central Command estimate that the new government will seek to accelerate the IDF's redeployment in the West Bank. They believe it will be necessary to complete the redeployment, with the exception of Hebron, by early 1996.

Commenting on this, a senior military source said yesterday that the redeployment program is continuing normally and according to plans and that changes will be made in isolated cases only. He added that the paving of bypass roads continues at full speed.

A government source noted that despite the government's decision, the political level has been discussing gestures and compromises in talks with the Palestinians. The source noted that, nevertheless, the level of security will be maximal in any event.

The IDF's redeployment continues in the Nabulus area, and talks continue between IDF and Palestinian officers on the transfer of power in Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah, and on cooperation regarding the elections in Hebron.

[A report in the same page by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal adds that Third Way leaders Yehuda Har'el, Avigdor Qahalani, and 'Imanu'el Zismann sent a letter to Prime Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday urging him to put off the evacuation of the towns until the bypass roads are completed, "in keeping with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's promise in a speech to the Knesset on 8 October 1995." The three further write that such a pullout would pose "a genuine threat to the personal safety of settlers in the West Bank and of Israeli citizens driving on the roads in Judaea and Samaria," and that they consider it their duty to caution about it "before a tragedy occurs."]

Hagay 'Amir on Relations With Yig'al, Outlook

TA2411144795 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (7 YAMIM supplement) in Hebrew 24 Nov 95 pp 7, 8, 10

[Report by Gid'on Meron]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Hagay 'Amir, the brother of Prime Minister Rabin's assassin and who is suspected of having known of his brother's plans to assassinate Rabin, was barred from meeting with an attorney for 14 days. Only this week did he meet with his lawyer, Avi Richtman, a leading Israeli attorney who specializes in criminal law and has extensive experience and a good reputation.

Hagay told his attorney: "I do not understand how he came out alive, how Rabin's guards did not kill him during the assassination."

Attorney Richtman was not at all surprised by his client's outlook or answers. At the request of 7 YAMIM, Richtman brought detainee Hagay 'Amir a few questions that may shed some light on his client's personality and outlook.

[7 YAMIM] What do you think of the deed as a whole?

['Amir] It was an unnecessary deed which did not serve the cause in whose name it was carried out.

[7 YAMIM] Why did you puncture the bullets you gave your brother?

['Amir] I did not puncture the bullets, which would have made them more lethal. I added lead in order to make them more accurate. I gave Yig'al the bullets because I wanted him to have them when he travels to the territories. That was about a year ago, and it had nothing to do with Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination.

[7 YAMIM] How close were you and Yig'al?

['Amir] We were very close. We were two brothers who talked a lot to each other, who spent a lot of time together. My brother Yig'al is the serious, bright one. He was always considered a bright student; he has a matriculation diploma and was enrolled in a university. I was always the punk of the family.

[7 YAMIM] Did you know about Yig'al's previous attempts to assassinate Rabin?

['Amir] I knew about two instances, and I learned of both only a few days after the attempts. Yig'al told me of the attempts at Yad Vashem and the Kefar Shemaryahu Junction after the fact. But the fact that he only told me about them several days after the fact, coupled with the fact that nothing happened in either case, only made me more convinced that Yig'al would not actually do anything concrete, that he was incapable of murdering Rabin.

[7 YAMIM] Did Yig'al tell you where he was going on the evening of the murder?

['Amir] No. On 3 November, the day before the assassination, Yig'al suggested that the two of us drive out to Shavey Shomron to spend Shabbat with relatives, but I was unable to join him, and so he called the trip off. This only proves that Yig'al did not plan the Malkhey Yisra'el Square assassination a long time in advance. Had I known he would go there to assassinate Rabin, I would have tried to stop him. I would have even used violence to stop him. But later that night, when I heard reports on television that spoke of a student from Herzliyya, I knew right away it was him.

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The idea that I knew where Yig'al was headed is ridiculous, because had I known, I would have removed all the explosives from the house in advance.

[7 YAMIM] What other areas of interest do you have, outside weapons?

['Amir] Physics. I love this science. I enrolled in a Bar-Ilan University course with the aim of completing my high school diploma and studying physics at the university next year.

[7 YAMIM] What do you do for a living?

['Amir] I am good with my hands. For a living, I work for a neighbor who owns a workshop and also renovates houses. I install window frames and do renovation and repair jobs.

[7 YAMIM] What are your political views?

['Amir] I voted for Moledet in the last elections. I would not have voted for Kahana even if he had run in those elections. I never thought much of his direction. Everyone in this country understands today that the only way to solve the conflict with the Arabs is through separation. The left is for separation through the renunciation of parts of our homeland, while the right — I am referring to Moledet, the only right-wing party that has a solution — supports the transfer of Arabs.

[7 YAMIM] What do you think will happen now, after the assassination?

['Amir] As I said before, I think the act, the assassination, was unnecessary; however, I think the peace process will not continue in the same way without Rabin.

[7 YAMIM] Did you know Avishay Raviv [head of EYAL, Irgun Yehudi Lohem]? Do you think he could have been a Shin Bet agent?

Hagay 'Amir stops for a moment, and his face registers surprise. Then he says: "I knew Avishay. Although I was not connected to EYAL, we met at joint activities of the right wing, at rallies and events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Avishay as a Shin Bet agent sounds simply insane, absurd. It is simply impossible. This is the first I have heard of it, and I do not believe it. Is that what the newspapers and television are saying? Simply incredible.

[7 YAMIM] Did the Shin Bet ever try to recruit you?

['Amir] Never. [passage omitted]

EYAL's Levi: Supported by Unnamed Politician

TA2411195595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 24 Nov 95

[Interview with Natan Levi, EYAL operations officer, by 'Irit Gal at Levi's undisclosed "hideout" on 24 November — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer] Since Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination, Natan Levi, the number two man in the radical EYAL [Irgun Yehudi Lohem] organization and who is known as its operation officer, has been in hiding from the police. Today, he gave an interview to 'Irit Gal from his hideout and disclosed that a certain Knesset member [MK] supported the organization:

[Gal] Levi decided the interview would be held at a deserted location and refused to give further details. How long have you been running from the police?

[Levi] Since the Saturday night that Rabin was assassinated.

[Gal] If you are so sure of your innocence, why not give yourself up?

[Levi] I will not give them the pleasure of capturing me, because they now have political and media pressure against me. Any judge would detain me today, whereas I do not think they will imprison me once tempers calm down.

[Gal] Were you in the square the night of the assassination?

[Levi] Yes, I went there to demonstrate against Prime Minister Rabin.

[Gal] Was Avishay Raviv with you?

[Levi] Yes, he also participated in the demonstration.

[Gal] What did you do there?

[Levi] The police kept us together at a certain location, and we demonstrated there.

[Gal] Did you see Yig'al and Hagay 'Amir that night?

[Levi] I do not really know them.

[Gal] After the murder, you and Avishay went into hiding. Was there coordination between you, and did you speak to each other?

[Levi] No.

[Gal] How did you react when you heard that Avishay is allegedly a Shin Bet agent?

[Levi] If it is true, it is a slap in the face to me. I spoke to him after his detention and told him that I will not

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forgive myself if I indirectly helped the Shin Bet and will never forgive him if it is true.

[Gal] It is claimed that Avishay worked for the Shin Bet since 1987. Does that mean EYAL was set up and funded by the Shin Bet?

[Levi] I do not know what to say. Possibly. I heard that the Shin Bet said that he was a problematic agent, so it is hard to say.

[Gal] How do you interpret the term problematic agent? Do you take it to mean that he worked for both sides?

[Levi] I take it to mean that he did not always give the true version. I do not know.

[Gal] Levi and Raviv set up EYAL about 10 years ago and worked together since the age of 14, first in the Kakh youth movement and later as an independent organization. Levi tried to contact him today. [video shows Levi speaking on a cellular phone]

[Levi] Hello, may I please speak to Avishay? This is Natan, his friend. Hello. Okay, thanks. He is not prepared to talk. He is there; I can hear him in the background. [passage omitted]

We had youths in EYAL from Kakh, Tzomet, Moledet, and the Likud. We even tried to have a lobby in the Knesset. We turned to several MK's — I will not name them — and one of them agreed to help us.

[Gal] What do you mean by agreed to help you? Do you mean fund you?

[Levi] I will explain. Not funds. He did agree, however, to assist us on one condition: that we not break the law and that everything is legal.

[Gal] Who is the MK who helped you?

[Levi] I will not disclose his name, because he might not want me to.

[Gal] Were there people in the Shin Bet who helped you with information?

[Levi] I do not know. I never saw a police investigator or Shin Bet man giving us information.

[Gal] No'am Federman and Barukh Marzel told me that Kakh and EYAL have somebody on the inside in the Shin Bet who identifies with you ideologically.

[Levi] Ask them. I do not know of such a thing. [passage omitted]

[Gal] When did No'am Federman tell you that 'Eran Osalvo and Avishay Raviv are helping the Shin Bet?

[Levi] Over two years ago.

[Gal] Did everyone in the radical right wing know about that rumor?

[Levi] I know that there were lots of rumors, especially about 'Eran. I did not believe it about Avishay, and I even defended him to a certain extent.

[Gal] What did Federman say? How did he know that Avishay and 'Eran worked for the Shin Bet?

[Levi] 'Eran tried to frame people by proposing all sorts of illegal things.

[Gal] Avishay?

[Levi] Federman said that the guy does not work, so somebody is funding him. He is only a student, yet he rents an apartment in Qiryat Arba' and at the student dormitories. He has a new car, a cellular phone, and a beeper, and he organizes all the Saturday outings.

[Gal] That means that the rumor that Avishay and 'Eran were helping the Shin Bet was already circulating two years ago.

[Levi] It is true that Federman knew. He got it from an intelligence source, apparently from inside.

[Gal] That means that Federman is receiving intelligence information from inside the Shin Bet about Avishay and 'Eran working for the Shin Bet?

[Levi] It is possible, because he had information. At first, we were sure he was just slandering Raviv, but now we see that his information was correct.

[Gal] How did Federman have inside Shin Bet information?

[Levi] Do not forget that No'am served as a Shin Bet agent at a certain stage and was later captured and detained for deceiving the Shin Bet.

[Gal] That is Levi's version. Since the prime minister's assassination, he has been sought by the security forces — unsuccessfully so far.

[Levi] I want to pass on a message to the Shin Bet and the left. You are trying to do the impossible. All you can do is sit on my tail.

Police To Question Rabbis Over Rabin's Murder

TA2711122495 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Nov 95 p A1

[Report by Yosi Hatuni, Re'uven Shapira, and Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the next few days, the Israel police plans to interrogate at least another four rabbis suspected of incitement to murder Prime

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Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by issuing halakic rulings of "rodef" or "moser" [people who imperil the life of Jews or turn over their property to non-Jews, and as such, are condemned to death], and of making other extreme pronouncements prior to the murder. Among those expected to be interrogated are known rabbis recently mentioned in media reports on radical right-wing activities.

The police suspect that these rabbis, by virtue of their statements and writings, paved the way for Rabin's assassination. Among other things, they are suspected of giving the murder halakic "sanction" because their ruling that Rabin should be treated as "a rodef or a moser" was tantamount to a death sentence. Most of these rabbis live in settlements in the territories.

The police have testimony according to which at least one of the rabbis who are expected to be interrogated maintained contacts with Yig'al 'Amir or Dror 'Adani, also under arrest for involvement in Rabin's assassination and for membership in an illegal organization. The authorities will decide today whether to arrest this rabbi. The decision will be made after consultations with Attorney General Mikha'el Ben-Ya'ir.

Yesterday, two rabbis were interrogated at the offices of the National Unit for Serious Crimes Investigations in Petah Tiqva. They are Rabbi David Qav from the Kerem D'Yavne Yeshiva, at which Yig'al 'An once studied, and Rabbi Shmu'el Dvir, a resident of the settlement of Karmey Tzur in the 'Etzyon Bloc. [passage omitted]

Communications Minister Receives Death Threat

TA2711104895 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Liat Collins]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday asked Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss to investigate a written threat she received at home. The threat came in an official Knesset envelope and carried the Knesset's postmark.

The anonymous threat consisted of a short handwritten note which read: "Your [plural] place is above. The land is ours."

The envelope also contained a rifle bullet. The letterhead read "The nation — the national camp" and had the subtitle of the economic and social club.

Aloni asked Weiss to ensure the necessary security precautions are being taken within the Knesset and asked for tighter control over entry permits to the compound. Aloni said she does not feel comfortable in the building because of the "strange" types who can be seen wandering around.

'Higher Alert' for al-Shaqaqi Death Anniversary

TA2511192495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Security officials have given instructions to maintain a higher level of alert and preparedness in Israel and in Israeli representations abroad in anticipation of terrorist attacks, especially since next month there will be the 40th day since the death of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi al-Shaqaqi. In addition, security around Jewish schools and organizations abroad has been tightened. This has been reported by our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Islamic Jihad Activists Arrested in West Bank

TA2611060795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eleven Islamic Jihad activists were arrested by Israel in villages close to Janin. One of the group's leaders, whose son was among those arrested, complained to the Palestinian police, but was informed that Israel is in charge of security issues.

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Al-Kabariti Rejects Syrian Accusations

JN2511121095 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 25 Nov 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] In a telephone contact with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti to know the details of the escalation in the confrontational statements between Damascus and Amman, al-Kabariti said: Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has attacked Jordan more than once in the Syrian newspaper TISHRIN and in other newspapers and magazines. The most recent attack was on Radio Monte Carlo a few days ago. Furthermore, al- Kabariti said, they did not hesitate to level accusations against Jordan, most recently Khaddam's remarks to Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir when he said: We are not honored to shake hands with those who shook hands with Rabin.

Al-Kabariti added that since Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan, Syria has been accusing Jordan of trying to divide Iraq. Denying this accusation, al-Kabariti said: This division is a fait accompli and Jordan is trying to prevent its consecration.

Al-Kabariti affirmed that it is obvious that the Syrian stand came in the absence of a clear view of the entire peace process, adding that the Syrians simply want to vent their anger on Jordan and the Palestinians. He noted that since the signing of the Oslo accord, Syria has been accusing Jordan of leading a scheme to divide Iraq, He said: I want to remind the Syrians: During the Gulf crisis, who fought against Iraq, and who stood at the side of the 30-state alliance against Iraq?

Asked by SHIHAN about any Jordanian measures toward Syria, particularly with regard to reports on border closure, al-Kabariti said: Some technical measures have been taken to organize the transactions which are taking place in accordance with the trade protocol between Jordan and Syria.

Disclosing to SHIHAN contacts held recently between himself and Khaddam, al-Kabariti said that during these meetings they talked about the peace process, its future, and the Jordanian viewpoint on this process, which has reached the point of no return. Al-Kabariti added that he told Khaddam that Syria should not stop at the stage of Oslo and its effects — whether negative or positive — because these effects are shouldered by the Palestinian side, and that Jordan's policy is governed by its national interests. He added that this is not detrimental to Syria because Jordan supports the Syrian trend in its talks with Israel, particularly with regard to Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Al-Kabariti said that the Syrians have a different view regarding the parallel tracks, noting that it has become obvious that the Syrians do not have a clear view of the peace process. Al-Kabariti added that the evidence is that Syria has accused Israel of obstructing the negotiations with it, but now it calls for activating the talks on its track and for activating this track more than before.

Al-Kabariti also spoke about the double standards in the Syrian policy. He said that Damascus attacked the Amman Economic Summit, it is now very enthusiastic about the Barcelona conference in which Israel will also participate and despite the fact that in the Barcelona conference security, economic, and political agreements will be signed between Europe and the Mediterranean basin states, including Israel.

Syria Said 'Distorting' Call for Iraq Federation

JN2611104695 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 26 Nov 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Big Brothers No More"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When the Middle East peace talks started in the fall of 1991 in Madrid, Jordan called for and attended all Arab coordination meetings that were held before and during the talks. These coordination sessions, however, soon broke down when it became apparent to the Palestinians and the Jordanians that Damascus, which decides for Lebanon, wanted to decide for Jordan and the PLO how to conduct their talks with Israel. Syria still maintains active oppositions to the Palestinian peace deals with israel through the encouragement and sheltering of all Palestinian factions that oppose the PLO-Israeli agreements. But Syria was completely unhappy that Jordan would sign a peace treaty with Israel, restoring its rights to land and water. Now the Arab neighbour is unhappy again because Jordan wants to undo what Syria contributed to in 1991, namely to end Iraq's plight. With Syria edging closer towards a deal with Israel, Damascus has now changed its rhetoric from criticising Jordan's peace with Israel to criticising Amman over its stance on Iraq.

The differences between the two Arab countries on Iraq come in the wake of Syrian charges that Jordan has sinister plans for Iraq. Syria is distorting a recent call by His Majesty King Husayn to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity through a federation among the three principal regions of the country, by projecting the King's call as one that would lead for the partitioning of Iraq.

The real threat to Iraq's unity was never the making of Jordan. it was the natural and logical consequence of the Gulf conflict in which Syria's role cannot be forgotten.

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One has to be blind not to see that there now exists a de facto separation among the three major components of Iraq, the Kurds in the north, the Sunnis in the middle and the Shiites in the south.

There is nothing that would please Jordan more than to turn the clock back and restore Iraq's unity under the banner of democracy, pluralism and respect for human rights. The best thing to Iraq's current disunity on ethnic and religious grounds is to forge a solid de jure federation among the three major parties that would preserve the territorial integrity of the country. [sentence as published] At a time when the Iraqi constitution itself concedes that the country is a binational state composed of Arab and Kurdish peoples, federation could become an effective formula to give genuine expression to this fact and at the same time maintain Iraq as a united country that can play a positive role in shaping the future of the Middle East. What seems to disturb our northern neighbour most, though, is to see an end to an era of old-fashioned hegemony that characterised inter-Arab relations for decades. It seems that it has yet to dawn on Syria that the past archaic rules of the game in Middle Eastern politics are gone forever. The syndrome of big brother in Arab relations has been broken and should be discarded for all times. What we would like to see instead is the replacement of such old methods of conducing bilateral relations by contemporary ones based on the principles of equality and national interest. Syria is an important Arab neighbour with which we aspire to have the best of relations on all fronts. The Syrian leadership needs to recognise that there will be no return to an era when the relations between the two countries were imbalanced for its own interest. Both countries should aspire at this moment to tome down rhetoric against one another and replace it with high statesmanship that would preempt the current wave of animosity.

Foreign Minister Clarifies Stand on Iraq

JN2511081995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 25 Nov 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan is committed to preserving the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, Foreign Minister 'Abd- al-Karim al-Kabariti said Friday.

Mr. al-Kabariti was commenting on reports that Jordan was having contacts with prominent Iraqi opposition leaders in London. The contacts followed the defection in August to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, Iraq's minister of industry and a son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn.

"A disintegrated Iraq is not our objective and we are committed to ensuring that Iraq remains a sovereign state with unity among its different factions and its territory being protected from all threats of division and partition," Mr. al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES.

"Jordan is not involved in any quest to change the regime in Iraq," said Mr. al-Kabariti. "This is an issue left to the people of Iraq, outside and inside the country. But Jordan, as a country neighbouring Iraq, has indeed an interest in seeing a change in the situation in Iraq, particularly in terms of the suffering of the people of Iraq, and we believe that the starting point is a dialogue among the major components of the Iraqi society."

Mr. al-Kabariti brushed aside claims that Jordan was working towards a divided Iraq.

Syrian vice-president 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam made the accusation in a recent interview with the Syrian state-owned Tishrin newspaper.

According to Iraqi dissident sources in London, Jordan is calling on them to launch a national dialogue among Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds to put an end to the chaotic situation following the August 1990-February 1991 Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the punitive measures imposed by the U.N. against Iraq that have led to immense suffering for the people of Iraq.

In recent public comments, His Majesty King Husayn called for dialogue among Iraqi sects "to get together credible representation from these three great concentrations of people and work out a national reconciliation between them and probably a new constitution."

"The time has come to look at the possibility of a federation or a federal state in Iraq," the King recently told Newsweek.

The first step towards the called-for dialogue, according to the sources, is an agreement among the three sects on a dedicated and concerted action for "coherence among themselves."

"This would mean," according to a source close to the Kho'i Foundation in London, "a clear understanding that the rights of every sect in Iraq would be fully respected in a democratic atmosphere and that democracy, political pluralism and respect for human rights would be the basic foundations of a new Iraq."

It also implies "respect for all of Iraq's neighbours and guarantees that the new Iraq would not undertake adventurist actions such as the invasion of Kuwait and any postures that imply any threat to any of its neighbours."

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The Kho'i Foundation is also demanding "full respect for all Shiite shrines in Iraq and firm resolve against Iraq undertaking any action against the interests of Iran, politically or religiously."

The Kho'i Foundation in London, named after the late Iraqi Shiite leader Ayatollah Kho'i, largely represents Iraqi Shiites and is seen mostly independent of Iranian controlled Iraqi Shiite groups, and as such, a "comfortable'" partner to Saudi Arabia, the Arab Gulf, and the West powers which all dread Iranian-influenced Iraqi dissidents.

"We have regular and uninterrupted contacts with His Majesty and his representatives," said a source close to Yusuf Kho'i, a grandson of Ayatollah Kho'i, noting that "relations between the Kho'i family date back to many years and are not restricted to current political developments or after the Gulf crisis."

The source noted that King Husayn had appealed in vain to the Iraqi leadership to allow Ayatollah Kho'i be moved to Jordan for medical treatment when he fell ill in 1992 and had taken part in a funeral service in London for the Shiite leader after his death in the same year. "These gestures had no political overhangs to them, but reflected the long-standing ties between the Hashemites and the Kho'i family," said the source.

In his comments to the JORDAN TIMES on Friday, Mr. al-Kabariti refrained from any direct reference to the King's current schedule in London. But, he said, "Jordan is seeking a unified approach by all the segments of the Iraqi society based on a full understanding of the need to end the present situation in Iraq."

According to Iraq watchers in Amman and elsewhere, Ahmad al- Jalabi, head of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), an umbrella group for Iraqi exiles, does not have a role in the Jordanian-proposed Iraqi dialogue if only because of the criminal convictions and charges against Mr. al-Jalabi in Jordan and elsewhere. Mr. al- Jalabi, who headed the now-defunct Petra Bank in Jordan, has been convicted of embezzlement and other charges in the Kingdom and faces similar charges in Switzerland and the U.S..

"As much as al-Jalabi aspires to play a key role in an Iraqi dialogue, he cannot hope to have one," said one analyst. "He is finished, as far as most other players are concerned."

According to the sources, as "starting point" an Iraqi dialogue should involve "credible representatives" of the Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds of Iraq as called for by King Husayn, and Gen. Husayn Kamil, supported by other Sunni defectors from Iraq, including former intelligence chief Wafiq al-Samarra'i (who lives in Syria), could represent the Sunnis, representatives of Ayatollah Kho'i the Shiites and the Kurds could be represented by rivals Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani.

Sources close to Gen. Kamil confirmed that they had been in touch with Mr. Talabani, who is based in Kurdistan in northern Iraq, and that contacts were also under way with Mr. Barzani. However, the sources said, Mr. Talabani appeared to be the "right" candidate for initial contacts before bringing in Mr. Barzani.

The sources also say that Gen. Kamil, who has set up base in Amman, is seeking to set up a "higher national council of Iraq" grouping representatives of the three sects.

Political experts here are divided over Gen. Kamil's role in the effort to bring a new Iraq.

"Personalities in the Iraqi ruling circles but opposed to the policies of the regime do not seem to attach much importance to the role of Husayn Kamil," said an informed source. "They are not willing to coordinate any of their moves with the defector."

However, others argue that Gen. Kamil represents perhaps the only means to assure many in the elite in Baghdad to cooperate with any effort to bring about changes in Iraq.

"Gen. Kamil is the only one who could enlist the support of elements in the regime, particularly some of the Tikritis, by assuring them that they would not be forced to pay for the mistakes of the Saddam regime." commented one analyst. Without the support of inside elements in Baghdad it is difficult, to say the least, to envisage any changes in Baghdad under the present situation."

Minister: Iraq Embassy Not Requested To Reduce Staff

JN2511102195 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 25 Nov 95 pp 1, 20

[Report by Nevine 'Abd-al-Hadi]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has denied that Jordan requested the Iraqi Government to reduce to 18 the staff of its diplomatic mission.

He pointed out that Jordan limited the number of Iraqi Embassy staff who enjoy diplomatic immunity. He said: I made this decision for reasons linked to the principle of reciprocity.

In an exclusive statement to AL-DUSTUR, al-Kabariti added that the Jordanian Embassy in Iraq has only 13

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personnel whereas there are 24 Iraqi Embassy and Iraqi Trade Center personnel in Amman.

Al-Kabariti said that Jordan will not accept any new member at the Iraqi Embassy in Amman. If this should happen, however, the new member will not enjoy diplomatic immunity and will be subjected to the laws governing non-residents of Jordan.

Wanted Libyans Reportedly Had 'Terrorist' Plan

JN2511180795 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 25 Nov 95 p 6

[Report by Rima al-Ma'ayitah]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jordanian dailies last week published an advertisement on two Libyans who are wanted by the Public Security Department in connection with the crime of embezzlement from a Jordanian company. This advertisement raised questions on the streets as to the truth behind this story, and whether it is just an embezzlement story, or goes beyond this.

SHIHAN tried to trace the lines of this advertisement from its sources. It has become clear that the two Libyans wanted to carry out a terrorist operation. These two persons are Miftah 'Ali Mas'ud and Kamal Jum'ah 'Ali. [passage omitted]

The details of this story began to unfold when security authorities received the information that two Libyan citizens were expected to arrive in Jordan via the Syrian border to carry out acts of sabotage for some Arab elements whose identity has not been revealed. The border authorities took all the necessary measures in anticipation of these individuals' arrival in Jordan, something that actually took place when they arrived at the al-Ramtha border post. The security organs checked their passports on suspicion that they were the wanted persons.

During the relatively long period of the verification process, it seemed that the two suspects, according to the security organs' story, thought that they would be exposed. So they escaped to an unknown destination, and the police failed to arrest them. This explains why the advertisement was published in the newspapers. They may have returned to Syria on foot, or proceeded into Jordan in the hopes of finding a chance to escape before falling into the hands of the police.

Security sources who know the details believe that the suspects' chances of carrying out the operation originally assigned to them are nil. Some experts believe that publishing the advertisement in the daily newspapers was aimed at calming the public and preventing any confusion that could be prompted by the leakage of this news. These experts believe that the security organs might even have already arrested the suspects.

Regardless of all these details or their accuracy, or whether there are other operations which are still secret, the clear thing, as politicians and analysts say, is that tracing the lines of this operation will eventually lead to some Arab capitals with which Jordan's relations have recently become tense, and which have moved from implicit criticism to sharp, explicit criticism.

To put it more clearly, the specter of the dimensions of the operation of the two Libyan suspects cannot be complete without recalling his majesty the king's criticism of Libya when he said: "I am not Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and Jordan is not Libya during his auspicious reign." This is because, as some observers say, the failed Libyan operation could be a Libyan attempt to respond to political criticism through terrorist means. If this possibility comes true, Tripoli will once again put itself in the same position which prompted the UN Security Council to impose a blockade on it several years ago on the grounds of its involvement in blasting the Pan Am airliner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie.

The question is still: What did the two suspects specifically want to do? Are they really Libyans, or do they just hold two Libyan passports and are of another nationality?

Security sources still decline to answer the first question. However, available preliminary information says that they came to carry out acts of terrorism and create explosions which would involve Jordan in a whirlpool of violence in order to prevent it from expanding its regional political role. However, regarding the second question, some say that the two suspects might hold another citizenship, but work either for Libyan security organs or for one of the Libyan-backed extremist forces.

The next few days will reveal all the dark sides of this story.

Government Officials Receive U.S. Admiral Owens

Prime Minister Bin-Shakir

JN2511191795 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir received in his office this evening Admiral William Owens, vice chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and his delegation. Staff General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the meeting.

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The two sides reviewed military relations between the two friendly countries, as well as several issues of mutual interest. The meeting was also attended by the U.S. ambassador in Amman.

Admiral William Owens, vice chairman of the U.S. Chiefs of Staff, and his wife arrived in Amman today on an official visit to the kingdom. He was received at Amman Civilian Airport by Staff Gen. 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mar'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staffs, and his wife; the Royal Ground Forces chief of staff and his assistant for intelligence; the Royal Air Force deputy chief of staff; and the U.S. ambassador and the U.S. military attache in Amman.

Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

JN2611203495 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 Nov 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Abd-al-Hafiz Mir'i al-Ka'abinah, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, has received Admiral William Arthur Owens, vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, and his accompanying delegation at the General Headquarters. The two sides reviewed the situation in the region, the region's strategic importance, areas of cooperation and coordination, and issues of mutual concern. [passage omitted]

Admiral William Owens and his wife left Amman later in the day. They were seen off by the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff and his wife.

Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zyad

JN2611181295 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1200 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zyad, the regent, has received a senior U.S. Army [as heard] official in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah. Talks between Prince Ra'd and Admiral William Arthur Owens [name as heard], the vice chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, focused on means of promoting U.S.-Jordanian ties in the military field. The audience was attended by the United States' ambassador to Jordan.

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Al-Hariri on Peace Process Understanding With Syria

NC2611065895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, who has arrived in Paris en route from his official visit to Argentina, met in the French capital with the graduates of the al-Hariri Foundation residing in Europe. He told them: We believe that peace is in our interest, but we want a peace that will not create internal problems. He added: We have an understanding with the Syrian brothers on the peace process so that neither of the two countries will take a unilateral stand. He said:

[Begin al-Hariri recording] Officials in Lebanon are fully convinced that peace is, first, a strategic option and, second, that Lebanon will benefit from peace more than any other country because it has suffered more than any other from the state of no peace no war and from the current situation. Hence, we firmly believe that peace is in our interest and hope that there will be peace. But, frankly speaking, we want a peace that will not lead to problems in our country. This is why we believe that we cannot tolerate a unilateral peace and therefore we will not undertake it. We want peace together with Syria. We talked to the Syrians, and we have an understanding that neither of us will sign a peace agreement with Israel before the other. Either we both sign together or maintain the situation as it is. We do not have any interest in saying that we can sign unilaterally because Syria could then sign unilaterally and nothing will prevent the Syrians in this case from signing an agreement with Israel before us and thus we will be left to face Israel alone, something that Lebanon cannot do. It is for this sake and to prevent any attempt to exploit a separate Syrian or Lebanese stand that agreement has been reached between us and the Syrians that we will sign a peace agreement together.

There are now new developments following the assassination of Rabin. The new Israeli government could have a different approach toward peace. That is what they are saying. If this is the case, then we are ready. The important thing is that they make up their minds and decide that they want to live in peace in the region and not impose their hegemony on it. If Israel wants to impose its hegemony on the region, then we believe that it will be difficult to achieve peace. If it wants to live in peace in the region, then we believe that peace could be within hand and could be attained. [end recording]

Prime Minister al-Hariri is due to return to Beirut tonight.

Buwayz: Peace Process To Advance With Peres

BR2411144795 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1014 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, 24 Nov (EFE) — The peace process in the Middle East, particularly as far as Syrian and Lebanon are concerned, "could be more dynamic and move forward if Peres remains true to his statements and to his political line," Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said.

In an interview with EFE, the man in charge of Lebanese diplomacy maintained that the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by a Jewish extremist 4 November has been offset by having opened up further the prospects of peace.

Despite this, Buwayz stated that "the internal opposition to the peace negotiations in Israel is still strong."

If Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres "succeeds in maintaining his political line and secures the necessary 'fuel' inside his country for imposing certain principles, the resumption of the negotiations will lead to a real peace," Buwayz asserted.

"The circumstances are now favorable, and this is the opportunity to secure a final peace if Israel really wants this," he added.

With respect to the Euro-Mediterranean Conference which will be held in Barcelona next week, the Lebanese minister ruled out Lebanon's or Syria's discussing the peace process with Israel.

"We have accepted the mechanism of the Madrid Conference (which began the peace process for the Middle East in 1991) and have no interest is departing from it or evading the task performed by the United States and Russia" — the cosponsors — he explained.

Despite this refusal — the same as was made by his Syrian counterpart, Faruq al-Shar' — other diplomatic sources emphasize that some kind of contact with new Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Barak at the Barcelona conference should not be ruled out.

Buwayz emphasized that it is Washington and Moscow which are performing an "essential and direct" task , but that does not mean "that we are opposed to Europe having a more effective and dynamic role," since European policy "has always been favorable to a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East."

The negotiations between Syria and Israel and — what is the same thing — between Lebanon and Israel have been deadlocked for months, since the stance — in this case, of Lebanon, according to its foreign minister — "is

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clear," and is the same stance that has been expressed "in the 13 rounds of negotiations in Washington."

Beirut demands the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which stipulates Israel's complete and unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon, where it occupies a 1,000 square kilometer strip.

"Without the implementation of Resolution 425 there will be no peace with Israel," asserted Buwayz, who added that if it is implemented, "we promise to guarantee order and security in the southern part of our territory," where the Lebanese resistance is daily fighting the Israeli Army and its allied militia of the Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL).

Israel, like the United States, the minister said, is demanding the disarming of the Lebanese resistance members in the south — especially those of the Party of God (Hizballah); however, the Lebanese Government replies that as long as the Israeli occupation continues, they have every right to fight for their land.

The Lebanese foreign minister recalled in the interview with EFE that his country "took part in the Madrid Conference after having secured assurances from the United States that peace would be established on the basis of Resolution 425."

In order to make this clear, Buwayz stated that in Barcelona his country will demand drawing a "clear, sharp, and precise distinction between terrorism, which we condemn and for which we pay a high price, and resistance to occupation."

'More Concrete Proposal' Expected

BR2711124195 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1852 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Barcelona, 26 Nov (EFE) — Lebanon is expecting from Israel's Government "a more concrete proposal" in order to be able to move forward in the Middle East peace process, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said today in Barcelona.

In statements made upon arriving at the hotel where the Euro-Mediterranean Conference is scheduled to begin tomorrow, the Lebanese minister said that new Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' recent statements were "apparently stimulating."

However, in Buwayz's opinion, such statements, if "separated from real and practical proposals, are ineffective, and this is why we are waiting for a more concrete proposal."

According to Buwayz, statements to the effect that "peace is more important than the elections (in Israel)" or that "the new (Israeli) Government's main objective is peace" are insufficient to move forward in the dialogue leading to peace.

Contrary to what happened in the case of previous conferences, such as those in Casablanca and Amman, Lebanon agreed to attend the Barcelona conference despite Israel's presence.

The Lebanese Government hopes the Euro-Mediterranean Conference, starting tomorrow (Monday) in Barcelona, will provide the "thrust" for a future association agreement between Lebanon and the European Union.

The Barcelona Conference, according to Buwayz, must pursue the "technical negotiations" which started on 9 November, so as to "bring them to a successful conclusion."

More on Talks With Israel

NC2411182195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stressed that raising the level of the peace talks requires a practical development in the peace process as well as a practical Israeli overture. He noted that Lebanon will benefit from the Barcelona conference in various spheres, particularly concerning the Lebanese-European dialogue. Buwayz was cited by editor Doyen Milhim Karam, who met with him at the Foreign Ministry today. Karam said:

[Begin Karam recording] I asked his excellency the foreign minister about (?a report) that might have been distorted on a possible meeting between [Israeli] Foreign Minister Baraq and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. I asked him if this report is intended to generate confusion before the Barcelona Conference. Buwayz said that perhaps it is true. However, there is one firm thing: Syria will not take risks nor will it become embroiled. If Syria decides on an issue, it will do so after in-depth study and scrutiny. [words indistinct]

Regarding the Barcelona Conference, Buwayz thinks that Lebanon will benefit greatly from this conference, because it will address Lebanon's post-war stage. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Buwayz Leaves for Barcelona, Comments on Peace

NC2611141295 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left for Barcelona this morning at the head of an official delegation comprised of ambassador

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Samir Khuri, director of the political affairs desk at the foreign ministry; ambassador Milhim Mistu, director of the foreign minister's office; and Izabel Iddih, information adviser to the foreign minister. The delegation left Beirut via Paris to participate in the Barcelona Conference on European-Mediterranean dialogue. In a statement at the airport Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] The EU's realization of the magnitude of the problems facing a number of neighboring countries, which will in one way or another reflect on Europe, prompted the European countries to hold the Barcelona conference. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified Correspondent] Mr. Foreign Minister, according to leaked reports, Israel will seek bilateral meetings between their foreign minister and some Arab ministers. What can you say about this issue, particularly in light of information that Israel will seek a meeting between the Israeli foreign minister and his Syrian counterpart, who has rejected this?

[Buwayz] I don't think that the information published in some newspapers in the past few days is accurate. I believe that Syria is committed to the Madrid Conference mechanism, which stipulates providing sponsorship by the two co-sponsors of the conference. I think that it is out of the question for Syria to deviate from this mechanism.

[Correspondent] Regarding the peace talks, what can Lebanon and the region expect from the visit to Washington next month by the Israeli enemy Prime Minister Peres and consequently from Dennis Ross' visit to the region next week?

[Buwayz] According to Peres' statement, his visit is expected to seek to revive the negotiations file. I believe that if it is true that Peres' public statements suggested a move toward peace, we must wait and see realistic proposals. Statements to the media are one thing and practical proposals on the negotiating table, or rather proposals that must be put forward, are another. So far, there are contradictions between Peres' and Baraq's statements on a number of issues. These contradictions prevent us from forming a clear picture of Israeli intentions.

[Correspondent] A U.S. State Department source considers peace very close. Your comment?

[Buwayz] There is a certain climate, but, as I said, there is a basic difference between the media climate and practical proposals. Let us wait and see if these statements will be associated with practical proposals. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Reportage on Clashes With Israeli Forces

Security Situation Noted

NC2511070095 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Israeli forces have resumed their attacks on the south and Western al-Biqa'. According to security reports this morning, Israeli forces bombarded various areas in the south during last night and this morning.

The Israeli occupation forces pounded the villages of Haddathah, Bra'shit, and 'Ayta al-Jabal in the central sector as well as the villages of Majdal Zun and Sribbin in the western sector yesterday. [passage omitted]

Elsewhere, clashes broke out between resistance men and occupation forces in the Sujud area. Lahdist militia [South Lebanese Army] radio said that three rockets had landed on the SLA's headquarters in Marj 'Uyun.

Islamic Resistance Claims Attack

NC2511071695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Islamic Resistance continued to deal painful blows to the Zionist enemy and his Lahdist agents [South Lebanese Army], who had demolished several houses in the occupied township of Bayt Yahun.

At 0615 today, the group of martyr Muhannad Ju'ani of the Islamic Resistance attacked the Bra'shit position. Two Zionist soldiers received direct hits during the attack. In retaliation for the continued Zionist attacks on the Bra'shit village, the group of martyr Husayn Shalhub attacked a Zionist checkpoint near the Bra'shit position at 2145 yesterday. The Islamic Resistance fighters used machine guns and rockets in their attack, which inflicted several casualties on enemy personnel.

Meanwhile, a military spokesman for the 13 Black September Battalion said that the al-Khalil martyrs group detonated an explosive charge as an enemy patrol was passing on the al-Suwayda' road at 1700 yesterday. The spokesman affirmed that two enemy troops were killed in the operation. [passage omitted]

More Shelling, Operations Reported

NC2611080495 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation artillery continued its attacks on the liberated areas and last night targeted Kafr Tibnit with shells fired by enemy tanks deployed in 'Ali al-Tahir and Qal'at al-Shaqif. The shells

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were suddenly fired at 2000 yesterday on the town and its outskirts. Around 30 shells fell in one hour.

At 0500 today, more than 15 155-mm shells fell on the valley between Burj Qallawiyah and Tulin from the enemy positions in [word indistinct]. They were followed 30 minutes later by shelling from the same artillery pieces in that position which targeted the outskirts of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Wadi al-Suluqi, which also came under 120-mm artillery shelling from the occupation forces position in Mashru' al-Tayyibah.

At 0600 today, the outskirts of Rshaf, Haris, Haddathah, 'Ayta, Sribbin, and Yatar came under 155-mm shelling from the occupation forces position in Yarin, with 20 shells falling in 30 minutes. Meanwhile, the enemy forces in the Haddathah position raked the outskirts of Yarin and 'Ayta al-Jabal with heavy machine guns.

Zionist helicopters strafed the outskirts of Qabrikha, Majdal Silm, and Wadi al-Suluqi with heavy machine guns at 0430.

The enemy's reconnaissance places flew during the night over some of the villages in the Tyre and Bint Jubayl provinces.

The Islamic Resistance continued their retaliation for the aggressions of the Zionist enemy, which practices attacks while hiding in fortifications and positions. The attacks target the liberated villages and the unarmed civilians because the enemy fears confronting the mujahidin face to face. The Islamic Resistance's artillery support unit attacked at 1630 yesterday an enemy troop assembly point in the Bi'r Kallab position, scoring direct hits. This attacked was followed half an hour later by another attack with the appropriate weapons by the artillery support unit on a similar assembly point in Kassarat al-'Urush, east of al-Rihan, causing certain casualties.

The Islamic Resistance yesterday morning injured two Zionist soldiers in the Bra'shit position. The operation came hours after an attack with rockets and machine guns by the mujahidin on an enemy post near the same position, killing and wounding a number of enemy soldiers. The agents' [South Lebanese Army] sources admitted that one of their members was wounded in the area.

Israeli Air Raids Continue

NC2611122395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have just learned that Israeli warplanes conducted three raids against Iqlim al-Tuffah heights this afternoon, with a five-minute interval between each raid. In two successive raids, the warplanes targeted the outskirts of 'Ayn Bu Siwar, while the third raid targeted Jabal Safi.

One Dead, 3 Wounded in Attack

NC2611122495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The martyr Khaldun unit from the Lebanese Resistance Brigades-Amal ambushed the Israeli occupation patrol traveling toward al-Shaqif in Arnun at 0600 today.

A statement issued by the resistance said that the enemy soldiers in the patrol were either killed or wounded in the resistance fighters' attack.

An Amal movement source confirmed that a member of the unit that carried out the attack was martyred and three others were wounded.

Surrender of SLA Recruits Noted

NC2711073395 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prompted by the collapse of the Agent militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] through successive blows dealt by the Islamic Resistance, two SLA recruits have given themselves up to Islamic Resistance fighters.

The Islamic Resistance has issued the following statement on the subject: In response to Islamic Resistance appeals to Lahd's Agents, to leave the centers of treason and action against their kin and homeland and give up their service to the Zionist enemy, and under the pressure of the bold operations by the Islamic Resistance fighters against the enemy and his Agents, two SLA recruits have given themselves up to an Islamic Resistance combat patrol. The two recruits are: Ahmad Hasan Makki and 'Ali 'Abdallah Hamadah from the Bra'shit company. [passage omitted]

'Resistance' Fires Katyushas

NC2711092395 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli occupation forces pounded the villages of Yatar, Haddathah, and 'Ayta al-Jabal in the central sector this morning.

Retaliating for the repeated Israeli attacks, resistance men fired several Katyusha rockets at areas inside the occupied strip and western Galilee in occupied Palestine. According to security sources, three Katyusha rockets landed on the settlement of Nahariyya.

Elsewhere this morning the Amal Movement announced the death of martyr 'Isa Kazim, who fell during the

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operation in the Arnun area yesterday. The funeral of the Amal fighter will take place in Mayfadun at 1400 today.

Amal Clashes With Israelis

NC2611134695 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A unit of the Lebanese resistance movement, Amal, carried out a rocket attack on an Israeli patrol on the Qal'at Arnun Road at 0930 today, burning down an Israeli army tank.

The operations room of the Amal Movement said one of its groups at 0600 today ambushed the Israeli forces a few meters from the Qal'at Arnun-al-Shaqif where a clash took place with the Israeli forces.

A statement by the resistance said that at 0835 the Israeli forces brought additional forces to the battle field, supported by helicopters. According to a preliminary count, an Israeli vehicle was destroyed and its occupants were either killed or wounded.

At 0850, the Israeli army attempted to land paratroopers on the fringes of Qal'at al-Shaqif, where resistance members confronted the attempt using various types of weapons. At the same time, the Israeli forces bombarded the area between Yuhmur and Arnun and up to al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah.

In an earlier statement, the Amal Movement said one of its groups yesterday evening confronted an Israeli patrol on the Arnun axis trying to advance toward al-Kassarah in Kafr Tibnit. The statement added that the clash lasted from 2000 yesterday until early dawn today. All kinds of weapons were used in the clash which compelled the attacking forces to use helicopters to cover their withdrawal and evacuate their numerous casualties. A resistance member from al-Nabatiyah City, 'Ali Salman Burayj, was killed and four others were wounded in the clash.

Israeli Forces Demolish Houses in South

TA2611110695 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 Nov 95 p A5

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Over the past several weeks, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been demolishing deserted houses in south Lebanon in areas where, among other things, IDF soldiers travel in convoys. The decision to demolish houses was made after a situation assessment determined that Hizballah gunmen use the houses to prepare attacks and ambush IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

A Northern Command source has said that the IDF must confront Hizballah attempts to carry out car-bomb attacks, the fact that Hizballah men squat in empty houses or seize houses by removing their inhabitants, and its attempts to attack IDF convoys with roadside bombs. This is why, since the IDF lost nine soldiers in south Lebanon a few weeks ago, it has been taking steps to prevent the recurrence of such attacks. [passage omitted]

Intelligence sources in the Northern Command believe that after a few days of relative quiet in south Lebanon following Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's assassination, Hizballah is currently resuming its attempts to attack IDF and SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers.

Hizballah Threatens Retaliation

NC2411182895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The revolutionary Hizballah movement in Lebanon has declared that it will not remain silent vis-a-vis the latest crime perpetrated by the Zionist forces in the occupied village of Bayt Yahun in south Lebanon.

Hizballah Secretary General Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah announced in Beirut that Hizballah forces will not remain silent about the demolition of the villagers' houses by the occupation forces.

The Zionist forces blew up 10 houses belonging to Lebanese villagers in occupied Ba

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Al-Asad: 'Signals' From Israel 'Still Not Clear'

JN2611084095 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1700 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 25 Nov (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad received Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee and his delegation at 1315 today. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Indian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

The Indian foreign minister conveyed to the president greetings from Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. President al-Asad asked the Indian foreign minister to reciprocate these greetings.

The attendees discussed the situation in southeast Asia, the Nonaligned Movement, the situation in the region, and the peace process.

President al-Asad stressed Syria's desire to achieve a just and comprehensive peace despite the fact that signals from the other side are still not clear.

The Indian minister expressed his country's interest in peace in the region and appreciation for Syria's stands.

The attendees also discussed bilateral ties. The two sides stressed the importance of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

Peres' Statement on Peace With Syria Welcomed

JN2511110195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an editorial today entitled "Peace is Achieved Through Deeds, not Words," TISHRIN says: As we follow the statements made by the Israeli officials on peace on the Syrian track, one basic and important fact can be seen; that peace needs deeds and not only words. True, there must be good intentions and a positive attitude. However, this is not sufficient to achieve peace if this intention and attitude are not matched, primarily, by measures on the ground according to which Israel commits itself to complete and full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

TISHRIN says: The statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres have created a positive climate and a good image about the possibility of achieving progress on the Syrian track and establishing just and comprehensive peace in the region. The statement by Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq, however, caused disappointment when he spoke about compromise solutions and partial, not complete or full, withdrawals. This contradicts the statement made by Peres himself who said there is a historic opportunity to achieve comprehensive peace in the entire region.

TISHRIN adds: By sticking to the security pretext, Baraq is trying to keep the obstacles and hurdles that caused the peace process to become dormant. The Israeli officials, particularly Peres, know that partial solutions and incomplete settlements do not achieve security, guarantee stability, or lead to firm peace. They also know that continuing to repeat their security arguments, which are not founded on an objective basis, will greatly harm, and cause a setback to the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes: The just and comprehensive peace, which is accompanied by parallel [mutawaziyah], equal [mutasawiyah], and equitable [mutakafi'ah] security measures, can ensure the security of all the parties involved in the peace process. This kind of peace will also allow the region to live in an era of security and stability. Therefore, out of its concern for just and comprehensive peace and in response to the requirements and principles of peace, Syria adheres to the resolutions of international legitimacy and is sincerely dealing with the conditions and components of the real, firm peace. Syria has no conditions for peace, except that it should be achieved on the basis of ending occupation, returning the entire Golan Heights to Syria in accordance with UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and Israel's acceptance of equal and equitable security arrangements after its full withdrawal.

In an editorial entitled "Does Peres Really Mean What He Says?," AL-THAWRAH discusses the contradiction in the statements made by Israeli Prime Minister Peres and Israeli Foreign Minister Baraq. The paper says this contradiction reminds us of the contradictions — which were uncommon in political action — between former Prime Minister Rabin and his then foreign minister, Peres, when the two were making statements in which one denied, or even canceled, the statements of the other.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Notwithstanding the contradiction between Peres and Rabin, and then between Peres and Baraq, and which of these statements is more representative of the Israeli policy, the statement made yesterday by Peres is very significant if it truly represents a new position which he really means and believes in, although that statement was no more than an acknowledgement of a fact, which Peres acknowledged for the first time, and although that fact is an objective fact which no one can evade.

AL-THAWRAH says: Peres' statement that the agreement with Syria is very important and will lead to genuine peace in the region is an acknowledgement of an objective fact, after it has been proved that arrogance

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is no longer useful, and after the feverish attempts to bypass Syria and its regional role have all failed.

AL-THAWRAH refers to Syria's argument that only just and comprehensive peace can achieve security and stability and that an incomplete peace will create tension in, and threaten the region.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that acknowledging the soundness of Syria's argument is not enough. Getting closer to the Syrian position and Syria's view of the peace process must start with implementing that precise equation; that is, achieving a comprehensive peace.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: If Peres means what he says, then he should quickly deny what Baraq has said. He must also move from the stage of making statements to taking positions on the ground, start implementing his own statements in reality, and state that he is committed to Syria's legitimate rights. Also, if Peres is serious, he should not waste this opportunity. The road to peace is very well known. We hope the United States will quickly test the credibility of Peres' statement before the domestic conflicts in Israel consume it.

Papers View Peres, Baraq Statements on Peace

JN2611090495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Nov 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, TISHRIN discusses President Hafiz al-Asad's assertion, made during his meeting with the Indian foreign minister yesterday, that Syria is keen on achieving a just and comprehensive peace despite the fact that signals from the other side are still not clear.

TISHRIN notes that the optimism created by Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' statements on the need to arrive at a comprehensive peace in the region and that peace is much more important than any electoral gain have lost some of their momentum following Israeli Foreign Minister Baraq's statements on compromise solutions, partial withdrawals, the importance of the Golan Heights from the military viewpoint, and the need to give priority to Israel's security interests.

The paper notes that the peace process cannot take any more procrastination or delay. It also notes that a correct and sound start will lead to positive results, while the wrong and distorted treatment will lead to negative, and even opposite, results.

TISHRIN says: The conditions for the real, firm, and lasting peace are well known and do not require any interpretation. These conditions are basically included in the UN Security Council resolutions, which rejected the occupation of other people's territory, which demanded Israel to withdraw its troops to 4 June 1967 lines, and which considered changing the characteristics of the occupied territory a flagrant violation of the international law and Geneva Convention and a null and void measure.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN stresses that the complete withdrawal is the genuine and only way to establish an honorable, firm, and comprehensive peace. Four years after the Madrid Conference and the stormy events in Israel, it is now time for the Israeli Government to declare a clear, candid, and unambiguous position regarding its intention to make a complete withdrawal because without this, the peace process cannot make any progress on the Syrian track, and it will be impossible to achieve comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

In a commentary today, AL-THAWRAH discusses the contradictions in the statements made by various Israeli officials. The paper notes what Shim'on Peres has said: That peace is a priority for his government and is more important than the elections. It also notes that, at the same time, the new foreign minister, Ehud Baraq, is talking about compromise solutions, partial withdrawals, the importance of the Golan Heights from a military viewpoint, and the need to give priority to Israel's security interests.

AL-THAWRAH says: Such contradictory statements and positions remind us of the positions of late Rabin and his political team, including Peres himself, toward peace. They also remind us of the game of maneuvering and the distribution of roles, which was being played in broad daylight, whereby we could see a flexible language here, and a blind intransigence there. That intransigence was evident in the negotiations and was translated into reality through the ceaseless, daily attacks in a bid to evade the requirements of peace and the commitments resulting from participation in the Madrid process. This confirms that the argument that in terms of its course and direction, the current Israeli government is not different from the previous government, a true one.

The paper says: Regardless of all that has been said before, we were hoping, and we still hope that the Israeli words on peace and the renunciation of war would turn into a serious and sincere course and conduct in order to see that peace a reality.

The paper stresses that this peace must be based on complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967. The implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations and the UN Security Council in the Golan Heights

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and southern Lebanon should be the primary objective, which everyone must seek to achieve.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: Therefore, dealing with the Syrian principles, that are based on international legitimacy, and recognition of Syria's national and pan-Arab rights remain the only way to arrive at the solution, which must be based on justice and comprehensiveness.

Under the headline "Peace Has Only One Concept," AL-BA'TH says: Some people may fabricate new concepts for peace that are very far from the clear and indisputable fact that peace has only one concept — peace must end the occupation of the others' territory first and return rights to their owners second. In both cases, no one party should impose conditions on the other, and the balance should not tilt in favor of one party at the expense of the other.

The paper adds: Several examples can be given in this regard. For example, before presenting the peace initiative in writing, there were countless attempts after the October [1973] War of liberation to strike agreements between Israel and the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process. These attempts — made under the slogan of peace — aimed at imposing Israeli conditions on the Arabs. These attempts remained mere plans, which ended up with incomplete agreements. What ends up with this result cannot be called a peace agreement. Therefore, it cannot be accepted by Syria, which seeks to implement a real concept of the just and comprehensive peace because it is the only one that is based on international legitimacy and because it alone can achieve balance and equitability and return rights to their rightful owners.

AL-BA'TH stresses that Syria has rejected and will continue to reject all the concepts that distort the reality of the just and comprehensive peace.

'Full Withdrawal' Said Required for 'Real Peace'

JN2611173095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1246 GMT 26 Nov 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Whenever Israeli officials talk about peace they also talk about the so-called risks, concessions, redeployment, the nature of peace, and other expressions that have nothing to do with the substance of peace. They also involve themselves in fantasies, illusions, and digression while standing at square one in the marathon race for peace.

A genuine and realistic peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy does not have risks. Moreover, it has nothing to do with redeployment or conceding others' clear-cut rights. Such peace means peaceful coexistence. The region's people are looking forward to such peace under the banner of justice and equality in security and life. Such peace also means full withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders from the territories the Israeli forces occupied by force. It does not mean redeployment, as has occurred in several places.

The Israeli talk about the nature of peace under occupation amounts to fantasy, illusion, and digression. This kind of talk is like bubbles in the wind. As for the risks of peace—if this rendition by the Israeli officials is correct—they lie in each reluctant and incomplete step, in incomplete peace, and in feeble agreements which were hastily prepared and which lack any logical component.

Regardless of Yitzhaq Rabin's concepts concerning peace with Syria as well as the concepts of his successor Shim'on Peres and also the views of the new Israeli cabinet concerning peace, the reality is that peace will have many risks if Syria is not a basic party to it. However, if Syria is a basic party, peace will not have any risk, and it will even be a civilized achievement in the service of the region's peoples. This reality is acknowledged by the officials and leaders of the entire international community and by all Israelis whether rightists, leftists, centrists, or others.

It remains to reiterate that real peace—namely, a lasting, comprehensive, and just peace—is Syria's option. The resolutions of international legitimacy which clearly stipulate the impermissibility of occupying others' territories by force constitute the banner for such peace. Consequently, the real gateway to peace is full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders and from southern Lebanon as well as establishing a system of parallel [mutawaziyah], equal [mutasawiyah], and balanced [mutawazinah]-security arrangements on both sides, so the security of one party will not be at the expense of the other party, and without any party making any concessions this time.

In this way we can begin the peace march. As for the statements made by Israeli Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq about partial withdrawals in the Golan, we consider them a slip of the tongue at a time when everyone has gone beyond such obsolete remarks.

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Afghanistan

UN Envoy Says Rabbani Accepts Peace Plan

BK2611095795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The UN special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Mahmoud Mestiri, has said that President Rabbani had accepted his plan and the leader of the Jonbesh-e Melli-e Eslami, General Dostam, had demanded the induction of some more names in the proposed list prepared for transfer of power. In an interview, Mr. Mestiri said the Taleban movement had not yet given its reply to him in this regard. He said the Taleban had not rejected his plan and assured him that they would consider the plan and would then give their reply.

'Peace Activists' Condemn Pakistan Minister's Plan

LD2411183295 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The nationwide society of Afghanistan's peace activists assessed Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali's three-point action plan as an interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Bakhtar reports that at a meeting held today in Sarwar-e Ka'inat mosque, the nationwide society of Afghanistan's peace activists declared that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, Pakistan's foreign minister, is shamelessly interfering in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. In his visit to Saudi Arabia, he proposed a three-point action plan to fan up fighting and to creat tension in Afghanistan. This is taking place at a time when Mahmoud Mestiri's plan has been accepted by some of the parties and the people of Afghanistan who are awaiting the restoration of peace and cessation of fighting.

This action of Pakistan's foreign minister is nothing but intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and a conspiracy against the UN plan. The nationwide society of Afghanistan's peace activists have the opinion that Afghans themselves should decide inside their country about their future. This is the only way to find a solution to the present difficulties.

Government, Taleban Fighting Over Pol-e Charkhi

Official: Area Retaken From Taleban

LD2311122795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Despite the Taleban claim on occupying Pol-e Charkhi region, an informed official in the Afghanistan embassy stressed that Pol-e Charkhi has been retaken from the Taleban forces.

Afghanistan's ambassador to Tehran in an conversation with our correspondent this afternoon said: The forces loyal to Borhanoddin Rabbani in a counter attack have managed to retake Pol-e Charkhi from Taleban.

Mr. Kheyrkhah stated during the attack the commander of the Taleban forces leading the operation along with some of his forces were killed and some others were wounded.

Taleban Claims Complete Control

BK2411153695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, Taleban has tightened their siege on the capital Kabul after taking the control of Pol-e Charkhi. Taleban sources claim that whole of Pol-e Charkhi town is completely under their control. The efforts by pro-Rabbani troops to regain the town have been frustrated. Taleban are now moving forward capturing more areas from pro-Rabbani forces. The Taleban sources said their next target is Bagram airport to blunt the air force of the Rabbani regime. During the week-long fighting, Taleban has taken more than 20 km of land from government forces.

Meanwhile, the officials of Defense Ministry say that Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has taken personal command of the force to drive away Taleban from their new positions. Reports have also come in that people living in the eastern parts of the capital Kabul have been seen leaving for safer areas.

Taleban Bombs Pol-e Charkhi

LD2411172995 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today around noon a jet aircraft belonging to Benazir Bhutto's Taleban attacked Kabul and dropped its bombs in the Pol-e Charkhi area [10 km east of Kabul]. Bakhtar reports that the bombs landed on a non-residential area and did not cause any damage.

Factions in 'Stand-Off' Near Town

BK2511093495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0853 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Nov 25 (AFP) — Afghan government forces have recaptured three strategic mountain posts from the Taleban militia as the battle for control of the east of Kabul raged on, army and defence officials said Saturday [25 November].

The three posts, overlooking land seized by the Islamic warriors during their massive three-day sweep across the eastern flank of Kabul earlier this week, give the

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government a fresh foothold in the embattled area, a defence ministry official said.

The posts are located near the Taleban-held Butkhak and Band-i-Ghazi area, they said.

Frontline commanders told AFP the posts had been taken from the militiamen late Friday by a 15-year-old boy soldier, leading a party of 20 men up the craggy slopes of the mountains which look down on the battlefield where the government and the Taleban are fighting for contol of the eastern route to Kabul.

"We are vey pleased with the gains as we needed a victory after several days of setbacks in this area," a government commander, Major Mullah Mohammed Aslam, said.

"We will soon move and cut the Taleban off completely and leave them helpless before pushing them back to where they came from," he added.

The new eastern front near the strategically crucial village of Pol-e Charkhi — which borders the main artery linking Kabul to Pakistan, which the Taleban appear to want to seize — was relatively quiet early Saturday, despite the sound of routine volleys of rockets, artillery shells and anti-aircraft gun fire.

Fighting has been pounding the area since Tuesday, when the Taleban — who are hemming in the city on three other fronts — began an advance in which they overran about 20 kilometers (12 miles) of ground held by the government in a major offensive aimed at taking control of Pol-e Charkhi and sealing Kabul's eastern supply route.

Strategists have warned that if the village — which lies about 15 kilometers (nine miles) from Kabul — and the road fall to the Taleban, the besieged Afghan capital would become very vulnerable to a major new attack by the Islamic warriors who have pledged to seize Kabul and topple the beleaguered government of President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

By Saturday, however the two sides were locked in an apparent stand-off on either side of a military stronghold in the former Pol-e Charkhi jail — which is three kilometers (1.8 miles) from the village — as the government attempted to push back the Taleban with regular bombing raids, rocket and artillery barrages and attacks by helicopter gunships, the defence ministry said.

The road leading from the city was still open and bustling with traffic Saturday, including over-loaded trucks and buses bringing people and food to Kabul, despite the fact that it is well within Taleban rocket and artillery range. The route does not however appear to have sustained any direct shell hits, although stray machine gun fire has damaged several vehicles.

The Taleban, who have been encamped outside Kabul since mid- October, have already seized large parts of Afghanistan and have vowed to take the capital and to install Islamic law across the country.

Government, Taleban Aircraft Bomb Positions

LD2511111395 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sporadic clashes are still continuing between Afghan Government and the Taleban forces around Kabul.

A Taleban fighter aircraft bombed Government forces' positions southeast of Kabul, and Government fighter aircraft also repeatedly bombarded Taleban positions.

At the same time, reports from Afghanistan say that negotiations between the Afghan Government representatives and Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] are continuing in a satisfactory manner.

Taleban Jets Said To Bomb Kabul Residential Areas

BK2611085095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0835 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Nov 26 (AFP) — At least 23 civilians, including nine children, were killed and 140 injured when the Taleban militia bombed residential areas of the embattled Afghan capital on Sunday [26 November], witnesses and defence officials said.

Taleban jets dropped eight bombs on four spots on or near the centre of Kabul around 10:00 a.m. (0530 GMT), defence ministry officials said.

At least nine of the dead and 50 of the people wounded in the peak hour bombing run were children, hospital sources told AFP.

Independent confirmation of who was responsible for the deadly air raid was not immediately available here.

A single 500 pound (227 kilogram) parachute bomb, which landed on a central residential area of the capital, claimed seven lives and injured scores of others, residents said.

Two cluster bombs, which hit the Afghan Supreme Court building and the road outside it, killed another seven people, including three eight-year-old children who were collecting firewood in the streets as heating fuel for the bitter Kabul winter, witnesses said.

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30 Said Killed in Raid

LD2611095795 Tehran IRNA in English 0939 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [no dateline as received] — Taleban's air raid on kabul, launched this morning, claimed 30 lives and left more than 45 wounded, according to initial reports released here.

Reports from Kabul said that on Sunday [26 November], around 10 am local time, two Taleban jet fighters dropped for three consecutive times, five 500-kg bombs in various parts of the Afghan capital city.

The bombardment destroyed eight residential quarters in 'Makrouyan', 'Qal-e-Mussa' and 'Bagh Bala' areas as well as some parts of southern kabul. several other quarters suffered damages.

People living in the capital and government sources in Afghanistan believe that there is a connection between this recent Taleban move with the group's defeat in southeastern Kabul on Saturday, which culminated in the loss of some of its positions.

This is the second Taleban bombing of Kabul over the past 10 days, which left many casualties and inflicted financial losses.

Ten days ago, a Taleban jet fighter hit two spots in the capital, killing ten and wounding 16 other civilians.

Meanwhile, Kabul was targeted as of Sunday morning, by the Taleban's long-range rockets. No more details are available so far regarding casualties and damages inflicted.

In another development, the Taleban group, which is charged inside Afghanistan as having the support of foreign states, rejected the new plan presented by U.N. special envoy in Afghanistan affairs Mahmud Mestiri concerning the power transition in that country.

Radio Reports on 'Genocide'

LD2611180095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have embarked on the genocide of Kabul residents and caused bereavement for the Kabul city residents. BAKHTAR reported that this morning 37 Kabul residents were martyred and about 140 others were injured as a result of the severe bombardment by the Taleban planes. Our correspondent who has been to the bombarded areas says: Most of today's bombardment's victims are children and women. There are nine children among the martyrs and 50 among the injured.

All of the bombs fell in the residential areas. No military people can be seen among the martyrs and the injured.

The Taleban high-flying airplanes dropped four bombs in the residential areas in two sorties by each of two planes.

According to some eyewitnesses, the planes were different in terms of color and body from Taleban's previous ones. The bombs were 500 kg each and controlled by parachutes. Two of them were cluster bombs. When [word indistinct] visited the place where the bombs were dropped, he said that these bombs were different from the ones used in previous bombardment. As a result of today's bombardment eight houses were destroyed and dozens of others damaged. In one site [words indistinct] and were picking the limbs of victims from here and there. Meanwhile, screaming mothers trapped under rubble could be heard. This was one of the most savage and ruthless air raid for four years on Kabul city. [passage omitted]

When government officials were asked about the perpetrators of the bombardment, they with 100 percent certainty said that Taleban had carried out the bombardment. [passage omitted]

A large number of Kabul residents are of the opinion that the Afghan Government should not tolerate more of this, and that it should take effective air defense measures to prevent the Taleban air raids. [passage omitted]

Taleban Admits Responsibility

BK2711035795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0342 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Nov 27 (AFP) — The Taleban Islamic militia has admitted that they carried out the air raid on the Afghan capital that left 39 dead. But the group said it had targetted government military positions.

Nine bombs were dropped by the warplanes that attacked Kabul on Sunday [26 November]. At least 39 civilians were killed and 140 injured. At least 13 children were among the dead.

A Taleban spokesman in the Pakistan city of Peshawar said late Sunday that the positions attacked included the hill that has Kabul's main television transmitter and the presidential palace in the centre of the capital.

The Taleban have laid seige to the capital on four fronts as part of their mounting campaign to overthrow President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

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The spokesman, Maulvi Ahmed Jan, quoted by the official Associated Press of Pakistan, said the planes did not bomb residential districts.

"Our pilots are fully aware about the military positions and rightly targetted government troops," he said.

Minister Visits Bombed Sites

LD2611150495 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Benazir Bhutto's Taleban have embarked on the genocide of Kabul's residents and bereaved the Kabul city residents. BAKHTAR reported that this morning 37 Kabul residents were martyred and about 140 injured as a result of the severe bombardment by the Taleban planes. A High State Council delegation headed by the Acting Prime Minister Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai paid a visit to the areas affected during Taleban's air raid today. He was accompanied by Sayyed Mohamad 'Ali Javid, deputy prime minister and minister of planning, and Qazi Mohammad Amin Weqad.

Bangladesh

Government Carries Out Dissolution of Parliament

Zia Calls For Dissolution

BK2411163095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said that she has advised the president to dissolve the parliament.

Addressing the nation over radio and television this evening, the prime minister expressed the hope that after the dissolution of the parliament, the Election Commission [EC] will make all the necessary arrangements to hold general elections for the sixth parliament. She called upon all political parties to take part in the coming parliamentary elections to maintain the hard-earned democratic process in the country. The prime minister again called upon all political parties and leaders to hold negotiations with an open mind to ensure free and fair general elections. She said that we are committed to continue the democratic process initiated in 1991.

The prime minister said that democracy is the safeguard of the people's rights and interests and the constitution is the safeguard of democracy. We are committed to uphold the dignity of the constitution and to protect democracy because we are the pro-people force. The prime minister said that we want free, peaceful, terror-free and unrigged elections to strengthen democracy sincerely. The election laws have already been extensively amended and the EC has been greatly strengthened to prevent any government or antigovernment force from illegally influencing the election process. The election system has been streamlined. Now, all government administrative offices, officials and employees involved in elections will be under the control of the EC from the day the election schedule is announced. It has been made obligatory for the government to provide any kind of cooperation which the EC might seek from it any time. Provision has been made to set up a committee comprising judges for immediate arbitration if a party, individual, or candidate violates the election law or rules during the election process. New electoral list has been formulated to check rigging and steps have been taken to issue identity cards as well as the registration of voters. Consequently, a conducive atmosphere has been created for holding free and fair elections. Under this system the people will be able to freely exercise their franchise.

In her speech, the prime minister gave a detailed account of her efforts to get the present political problems resolved peacefully through negotiations. However, she regretted that before coming to the negotiating table the opposition parties set the condition that the government accepts a caretaker government. She told the nation that the opposition would come to the negotiating table only if their demand was met. She said that we want to arrive at a settlement through negotiations, but the opposition continued pressuring for the acceptance of their demand, thus closing all avenues of reconciliation.

The prime minister said that some political parties left parliament and went out to the streets to impose an extraconstitutional system on the people. They are disrupting the people's normal life by strikes, blockades and other means. None of their activities are democratic.

The prime minister said that the situation and background in 1990 was different from now. Then the constitution was a presidential system-based. An unelected person could be appointed as a vice president. The vice president could temporarily assume the responsibilities of the president if the presidential post remained vacant.

The prime minister said that in 1991, the 12th amendment to the constitution was passed by a vote of all government and opposition MP's. Through a referendum, you too had voted in favor of this amendment. Through that amendment, the presidential system was replaced by a parliamentary system under which the country's prime minister is the head of the government. The prime minister should be a member of the parliament and must command the confidence of majority of the members in parliament. Under the present constitution, it is not possible for an unelected or nominated individual to become the prime minister of the country. The country has

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an elected parliament and an elected prime minister. In spite of this, the opposition leaders want a change of government like that in 1990 — something which is not possible by any means under the current Constitution.

The prime minister said she invited the opposition leaders to come to parliament and discuss their demand there. The prime minister had invited the leader of the opposition to parliament to justify their demand. She said her views and my position were supposed to be carried live by radio and television to enable the people understand the real issue. However, the prime minister said the opposition did not agree to any of our proposals.

The prime minister said that on the request of the Commonwealth secretary general, talks were held with the opposition leaders under the mediation of Sir Ninian Stephen, the special envoy of the Commonwealth secretary general. However, no settlement could be reached. Later, efforts were made to resolve the (?current) crisis through a by-election as is provided by the constitution. However, the opposition parties did not respond to the government's gesture of goodwill.

Giving a detailed account of her government's achievements in various spheres, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the socioeconomic progress achieved during the past four and half years has been lauded in the country and abroad.

Police, Opposition Clash

BK2411151595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1459 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Nov 24 (AFP) — Bangladeshi police used truncheons to disperse supporters of the main opposition Awami League who went on a rampage Friday [24 November] to protest Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's refusal to bow down, witnesses said.

Police were responding to the protesters smashing vehicle windshields and setting off home-made bombs, witnesses said.

There were no immediate report of injuries.

Supporters of Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) also took to the streets shouting slogans in support of the prime minister.

Zia recommended dissolution of Bangladesh's parliament Friday and urged all political parties to participate in subsequent elections.

In an address over state-run radio and television, Zia said she asked President Abdur Rahman Biswas to dissolve parliament. After the parliament is dissolved, "the election commission will take necessary steps to hold general elections," she said.

Leaders of main opposition groups were in meeting late Friday to discuss implications of Zia's speech and party officials said they had no immediate commment.

She did not specify when the parliament, whose five-year tenure expires on April 4, would be dissolved and when new elections would be held.

Elections to the 330-seat parliament are scheduled for early 1996.

Opposition legislators resigned en masse in December in the opposition's 19-month campaign to bring down Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government. They have demanded Zia's resignation and elections under a neutral caretaker government.

Zia has rejected the caretaker demand as unconstitutional but had earlier offered to step down 30 days ahead of elections.

Zia's statement came as main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed reiterated at a rally here that the opposition would disrupt nationwide communications from December 7 if Zia failed to meet its demands.

Biswas Dissolves Parliament

BK2411161295 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1600 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Abdur Rahman Biswas tonight dissolved the fifth Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] in exercise of the powers conferred on him under the Constitution. Earlier, Prime Minister and leader of the house Begum Khaleda Zia called on President Biswas at Bangabhaban [President House] and advised him to dissolve the Jatiya Sangsad. President Biswas requested Begum Khaleda Zia to continue as the prime minister.

Opposition Leader Welcomes Move

BK2511133595 Hong Kong AFP in English 1301 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Nov 25 (AFP) — The government on Saturday [25 November] said it had taken "a major step forward" by dissolving parliament and calling elections, but the opposition reiterated it will boycott polls unless further demands are met.

The announcement Friday by President Abdur Rahman Biswas that parliament would be dissolved also served to blunt the impact of a half-day strike called by supporters of jailed former president Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

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"By accepting ... demands for the dissolution of parliament, the government has gone a major step forward in accomodating the opposition," said Housing Minister Rafiqul Islam Mian.

But Mian was adamant that the government would not bow to the further opposition demand that elections be held under a neutral caretaker administration.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has proposed an interim adminstration to be led by her Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) but has offered to resign 30 days ahead of the polls, which under law must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of parliament, or by February 22.

"Constitutionally (a neutral caretaker government) is an impossible proposition and we hope (the opposition) would appreciate this ... today or tomorrow," Mian said.

In a statement published Saturday, Hasina Wajed of the main opposition Awami League welcomed the dissolution of the parliament as a "victory of people's agitations."

But she reiterated her stance that the opposition would boycott the polls unless their futher demands were not met and threatened organised disruption of nationwide communications starting from December 7.

Wajed's comments were echoed by several other Awami League leaders as well as members of the Jatiya Party and the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami party.

All 147 opposition MPs resigned en masse from the 330-seat parliament in December to push their campaign against Zia.

On Wednesday, Zia had asked the opposition to take part in by- elections to to fill 145 of the vacated seats and pave the way for national polls, but her offer was rejected.

"Right now it is difficult to predict if the opposition will take part in coming elections," Mian said.

A former Awami League parliamentarian, speaking on condition of anonomity said: "The rest will depend on how both sides interact in coming days and try to accomodate each other," he said

Ruling party sources said once the election scheduled was announced, they hoped the mood in an apparently fractured opposition would change in favour of joining the polls.

Zia announced the dissolution after meeting Biswas. In a 40- minute televised address, she explained the circumstances leading to her decision and discreetly blamed the opposition for their lack of cooperation since the BNP took office following the 1991 general elections.

But she also made a fervent appeal to the opposition to take part in upcoming elections.

She made no reference to her earlier offer to resign ahead of the elections.

The dissolution of parliament served to divert attention from a half-day strike called by the Jatiya Party to press demands concerning jailed former president and party leader Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

Ershad has been diagnosed as suffering from viral hepatatitis and his family is leading a campaign to persuade authorities to move him from jail to a specialist hospital.

His wife, Raushan, and three other members of the ex-president's family are continuing a hunger-strike.

Shops and schools remained shut and banks and offices were thinly staffed, but there were hardly any activists or pickets on the streets, which were largely empty due to torrential rain all day.

The parliament dissolved Friday, the fifth since Bangladesh gained indepedence from Pakistan in 1971, had lasted the longest so far.

Its dissolution came only four months ahead of the scheduled end of its five year term in early April, 1996.

All four previous parliaments had their terms cut short mostly through military or other interventions.

Zia, Opposition Discuss Polls, Demands

BK2711054195 Hong Kong AFP in English 0511 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DHAKA, Nov 27 (AFP) — Bangladesh's main opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia held their first direct talks by telephone to end a 19-month political standoff, but without a breakthrough, opposition officials said Monday [27 November].

Wajed first called Zia late Sunday, but was told she was resting, opposition officials said. But later the premier called back and Wajed urged her to accept opposition demands in order to end the long-running political stalemate.

"Only you can save the country and the nation from the crisis by accepting the concept of a non-party neutral caretaker government," Wajed was quoted as saying late Sunday by her opposition Awami League officials.

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Wajed took the same line Sunday in a reply to a letter which Zia wrote to her about two weeks ago. Copies of Wajed's reply were issued to the press.

But Zia refused to budge, reportedly telling Wajed during their conversation did not "understand caretaker government," the Independent newspaper said.

However, Information Minister Shamsul Islam acknowledged the telephone call as a "good beginning."

"I hope it will culminate in a constitutional solution to the political impasse," he said.

The talks came three days after President Abdur Rahman Biswas dissolved parliament and asked Zia to continue as the interim prime minister until elections in early 1996.

The opposition had been pressing for the dissolution of the 330- member parliament after they resigned en masse last December to push their demands, shunned by Zia as "unconstitutional.

India

Al-Faran Threatens To Kill Hostages in Kashmir

BK2611120895 Hong Kong AFP in English 1153 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Nov 26 (AFP) — A Moslem separatist group holding four western tourists in Kashmir has threatened to kill their hostages, as Kashmir remain paralysed due to a strike called by a Moslem rebel group, officials said Sunday [26 November].

"We had contact with the militants today and they said they will kill the hostages if their demands were not met immediately," official sources said on condition of anonymity.

"What have you (the government) done about our demands. If they (the demands) are not met all the responsibility will be on your hands," the Al-Faran militants told the government negotiator, Rajinder Koul.

The conversation, which lasted for about 10 minutes, was snapped immediately after the warning, official sources said.

The Al-Faran group on Thursday warned Indian negotiators in its last contact that it "would regret if you are not going to accept our demand" for the release of 15 jailed colleagues.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, American Donald Hutchings, 42, and German Dirk Hasert, 26 were abducted from the hill resort of Pahalgam, between July 4 and 8.

The rebels killed a fifth hostage, 27-year-old Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro, in the first week of August.

The Indian government has ruled out exchanging any prisoners for the hostages and said a commando-style rescue operation would be too risky.

Meanwhile, shops, offices and other establishments were closed in this state summer capital and in large tracts of the Moslem-majority state in response to the protest announced by the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), police said.

The JKLF announced the strike to denounce the deaths of five people in firing by Indian troops on Friday on a 2,000-strong crowd which defied an order to leave a prayer-cum-protest rally for an identification parade.

Another faction of the pro-independence JKLF, which split recently, had called a general strike Saturday to protest the incident.

The Ikhwan-ul-Muslamoon rebel group also announced a strike on Sunday to protest what it termed the "killing of innocent Kashmiris by a particular rebel group."

Kuka Parray, the renegade rebel leader of the Ikhwan, refused to identify the group. Parray is accused of being a stooge of Indian authorities by rival militant groups in Kashmir.

Indian authorities believe the Al-Faran is a front for the Harkat-ul-Ansar guerrilla group, mainly comprising Afghans, which kidnapped two British trekkers last year in Kashmir and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in separatist-linked violence in Kashmir since 1989. India accuses Pakistan of fomenting insurgency in the disputed state but Islamabad denies the charge.

Police Start 'Massive Manhunt' After Blast

BK2411150395 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1330 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In occupied Kashmir, latest clashes between mojahedin and occupation forces have killed more than 16 Indian soldiers. In Kulgam, 13 Indian troops were killed and 7 others injured when a military vehicle blew up after striking a land mine. According to KASHMIR MEDIA SERVICE, three mojahedin were also martyred while fighting against Indian troops. The clashes took place in Kupwara, Shupiyan and Anantnag-Islamabad. In Pulwama, occupation forces burnt an innocent citizen in custody. They suspected him of having links with mojahedin. In Srinagar, occupation forces took a retired session judge into custody and his whereabouts are unknown. Indian forces have

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reportedly activated their agents who are also killing innocent people. These agents abducted a district medical officer of Dialgam in Islamabad- Anantnag, Dr. Mahmum Ahmed, and later shot him dead at Dangarpura and threw his dead body in Fatehpura. The forces' agents also killed one Amanullah and threw his body on the roadside.

The prominent leaders of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference, including Syed Ali Gilani, Khwaja Abdul Gani Lone, Mohammad Yasin Malik, and Javed Ahmed Mir, attended the funeral of the assassinated leader of the Jammat-i-Islami, Abdul Razak Mir. All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders condemned the brutalities of the Indian forces.

Police have arrested more than 50 people and started a manhunt in localities of New Delhi where Kashmiris are living, reports Ghulam Nabi Khayyal from the Indian capital:

[Begin Khayyal's recording] Delhi police has started a massive manhunt in this capital city of India after a bomb blast injured 30 people in the busy commercial center of Connaught Place Tuesday [21 November]. With the red alert having been sounded, the police contingents have come down heavily on localities where mostly Kashmiris earned their livelihood during wintry months each year. Search operations in North, West, and South Delhi are being conducted to trace out Kashmiri or the Sikh militants allegedly involved in the blast. About 50 people have been rounded up for questioning and more arrests are expected to follow. The authorities have refused to disclose the identity of those taken into custody for questioning. However, a senior Home Ministry official told this correspondent that a sizable number of Kashmiri youths were also included among the persons apprehended. Some Kashmiri traders and students have complained of harassment by the police and intelligence officials of the state and the Central Government here. With the security around vital installations tightened, the police suspect a link between Tuesday's explosion and that of 25th of September near the historic Red Fort which left about 50 people injured.

Ghulam Nabi Khayyal for PTV news, New Delhi India. [end recording]

Alleged Pakistani Arms-Smuggling Attempt Foiled

BK2711045195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir police have foiled a major Pakistani attempt to smuggle in arms, explosives, and ammunition for creating disturbances in the Jammu region. Police recovered three consignments of arms and explosives from village Madun close to the India-Pakistan border in Kathua District yesterday. The seizure included 20 kg of explosives, four pistols, one telescopic gun, four night-vision devices, 12 pencil bombs, and 10 detonators.

Another haul yesterday was from near village Khanpur on the Tavi island. It included 12 grenades, two time-pencils [as heard], two pistols, one night-vision device, one silencer, and a large quantity of ammunition. Police parties are continuing the search in the area to nab the persons who smuggled in arms and explosives.

The people in Jammu and Kashmir have been advised to report immediately to the administration about any missing youth from their house or village. According to an official spokesman in Jammu, the state government has received reports of abduction of Kashmiri youth by militants who later try to take them across the border against their will. The Army and the security forces have foiled many such attempts in the recent past.

Education Cooperation Discussed With PRC Official

BK2711102295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has expressed its desire to learn from the Indian experience in the field of education. The human resource development minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, and the chairman of China's State Education Commission, Mr. Zhu Kaixuan, discussed the educational developments in both the countries and the goals set for the next century at a meeting in New Delhi today. Mr. Scindia told the Chinese leader that the highest priority is now being given to primary education and adult literacy. An official release said that Mr. Zhu Kaixuan, who is on an eight-day visit to India, also gave the details about the educational reforms undertaken in China to suit its socialist market economy.

Article Views Issues Surrounding Enron Deal

BK2011140095 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 17 Nov 95 p 8

[Article by Mohan Dharia: "Result of indecent haste"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Enron deal was perhaps the hottest issue during the last Assembly elections in Maharashtra. The citizens, NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] and the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena combine were in the forefront in opposing the project. Mr Gopinath Munde the then leader of the Opposition and now the Deputy Chief Minister, even went to the extent of announcing that the Enron project at Dhabol will be drowned in the Arabian Sea. The Congress Government which had approved and signed

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the agreement on the eve of the Assembly elections, ignoring all democratic proprieties, was defeated and the Shiv Sena-BJP alliance got the opportunity to form its own government.

In view of the commitment made to the people and to expose the misdeeds of the party in power earlier the Shiv Sena-BJP Government constituted a high-level committee to probe the Enron deal under Mr Munde's chairmanship. The moment the names of the chairman and other members were announced, the outcome of the recommendations of the Munde committee was obvious. I wish the Government had shown the sensibility of constituting a committee of some eminent unbiased experts and jurists. The Munde committee was expected to present its report within one month. However, for reasons known to the committee and the Government, the report was delayed for a considerably long time. As expected the Munde committee recommended cancelling the contract made with Enron and after acceptance by the Cabinet, a stay order was issued to the company to stop the construction activity.

Enron, a well-known multinational company, operated several levers from the national to international level and even initiated arbitration proceedings as per the earlier agreement. After several meetings and political or other pressures, the company succeeded in changing the hearts of the Shiv Sena and BJP leaders at the higher level. Despite opposition from the die-hard section of the BJP, the Chief Minister commenced negotiations under the guidance and on the conditions suggested by Mr Bal Thackeray. This process was initiated without inviting any global tenders as was announced earlier. Though a technical committee has been constituted to go into various aspects, it is clear that the final decision will be taken at the political level. In the meantime, the arbitration proceedings in London will continue. The Enron management has succeeded in keeping the threat of huge compensation alive.

It is to be seen to what extent the hesitant Government stands the test and honours its commitment. During the past few months, the name of Enron has reached all corners of the country. The Central Government has accepted free market economy and several multinationals are entering the country through collaborations for the production of unwanted consumer goods or establishing infrastructural industries like power, steel, transport, communications, shipping, etc. True, India cannot insulate itself from the recent economic and social changes in the world. India needs a larger infrastructure for speedy industrial and agricultural development and, keeping our national interests in view, there is nothing wrong in inviting foreign investment in this field.

We must distinguish, however, between the process of liberalisation and free acceptance of global economy. It has been established that the rich advanced countries advocating the free market economy are themselves the worst protectionists as they often exercise their authority to safeguard their own interests. Under the circumstances, poor developing countries like India have to be far more cautious while allowing in the multinationals in order to protect our own interests.

The controversial Enron deal throws light on several issues and provides useful guidelines while dealing with multinationals. The important issues and aspects are:

(1) It was highly improper on the part of the earlier government to enter into the contract with Enron without inviting global tenders or quotations from well-known international companies. To argue that some other States have not called for any tenders or quotations cannot justify the Enron deal cleared in indecent haste. When State Governments, zilla parishads [district council] or municipal corporations are under an obligation to invite tenders or quotations for small projects costing a few lakhs of rupees, how come a contract involving an investment of the order of Rs [rupees] 9,000 crore could be justified without observing such procedure? Even assuming that the whole Enron deal is clean and without any kickbacks, the very fact that the deal was entered into without inviting tenders and was kept secret creates suspicions. In the light of the low credibility of the political leadership, such suspicions are further strengthened.

(2) Several statements with comparative figures are made to prove that the investments and the rates for consumers are reasonable. The recent remarks of Ms Rebecca Mark that the investments could be scaled down only makes the deal more doubtful. The Finance Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, has rightly said that in deals of such size, the process of inviting tenders must be scrupulously followed.

(3) The beautiful Konkan areas are already affected by the various chemical industries which do not seem to bother about the impact on the environment. The effluents from these industries have badly polluted rivers like Patalganga, Kundlika, Savitri, Vashithi and also the nearby seashore. Fish cannot survive and the people and cattle are forced to drink the polluted water. Mango, cashew and other fruit trees are also affected. Before allowing any polluting industries, it is necessary to seriously examine the environmental aspects and Enron cannot be an exception. It is gratifying that the new State Government has so far taken a firm stand to protect the environment of Konkan during its negotiations. Let us hope that it will adhere to its commitment.

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(4) All our development programmes including infrastructural have to be directed towards making the country self-reliant. When necessary raw material is locally available, dependence on raw material for producing energy, and that too from sensitive countries, cannot be justified on any account. Insistence on utilising local material is not only prudent but will save foreign exchange worth thousands of crores of rupees. The recent depreciation in the value of the rupee as against the dollar and other international currencies adequately reflects the weakness of the rupee, and the country has to be far more cautious in spending its valuable foreign exchange.

(5) To provide government guarantee for 16 percent dividend and that too in foreign currency to a private company is perhaps the most unwise decision taken by both the State and the Centre. It amounts to pushing the country into a permanent debt trap and to invite economic imperialism. How can the country be held responsible for certain fixed dividends to be paid to a private company in a competitive economy? Had the global tenders been invited, no multinational would have ventured to put forward such absurd conditions.

(6) With the introduction of free market economy, it seems that the writ of the Planning Commission and the hold of the Finance Ministry have virtually come to an end. When our Constitution, Parliament and the National Development Council have assured a balanced growth in all the States and regions, the present race amongst the Chief Ministers to invite more investment in their respective States by granting more and more facilities is indeed disturbing. This may widen the regional imbalances which could one day lead even to the disintegration of the country. It is strange that the Central Government should be a party to such unhealthy competition amongst the Chief Ministers. The National Development Council should provide the required lead in formulating proper guidelines and judiciously encouraging new investments in all parts of the country for a balanced growth.

Iran

Commentary Attacks VOA's 'Propaganda War'

LD2611134995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 26 Nov 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The VOA's Farsi [Persian] service, in its morning broadcast on November 25, once again reiterated the same U.S. accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran. The VOA, which reflects the official views of U.S. statesmen, pictures Iran as the only real threat in the Persian Gulf region. Once again, the VOA repeated the baseless accusation of the U.S. Under-Secretary of State Peter Tarnoff that says Iran is helping Palestinian terrorists to disturb the trend of Middle East peace talks.

The propaganda war waged recently by the VOA against Iran is lacking evidence just like other U.S. accusations against the country for the past 17 years. At the same time, all historical developments and events of the past two decades in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf demonstrate the undeniable fact that all crises have roots in the U.S. and Israel. Iraq's invasion of the Islamic Republic of Iran and that country's invasion of Kuwait have definitely been aimed at countering the ever-increasing growth of Islam and the popularity of the Islamic revolution of Iran.

The security of the Persian Gulf was badly damaged during two destructive wars by the Baghdad regime. But if now the security of this strategic waterway is endangered, the blame should be put on Washington's expansionist policies and that country's military presence in this region. The U.S. and some of [?her] regional allies, based on a long-term policy, are trying to bring the oil price to the lowest possible level and it is clear that the Persian Gulf states have sustained severe economic losses due to the current situation.

The blame for the economic instability can also be put on the political crises. Any kind of instability in the region can be traced to the two major capitals sponsoring terrorism and hatching plots, meaning Washington and Tel Aviv. Based on undeniable facts, Iran believes that the type of peace desired by the U.S. and Israel cannot be very lasting in the Middle east and the Persian Gulf. In case this compromise trend of countries making deals with Israel achieves its goal, the regional people will be marginalized and will be deprived of their legitimate and humane rights.

Taking into consideration the issues discussed so far, the Islamic Republic of Iran, when facing suppression and deceit, adopts only one policy and that is rejection.

Va'ezi Says Russia's Yeltsin To Visit in '96

LD2411221495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Iran's deputy foreign minister for Euro-American affairs, at the end of a visit to Russia, announced that Russian President Boris Yeltsin will visit Iran according to his schedule in the first half of 1996. Experts from the two countries are preparing memorandums of understanding and agreements for the visit. This news was announced by Mr. Va'ezi on Friday [24 November]. [passage omitted]

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President Sends Message to Bosnia's Izetbegovic

LD2511121395 Tehran IRNA in English
1136 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA — President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in a message to Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic Saturday [25 November], congratulated the Government and the Muslim natation of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the country's national day.

The Iranian president in a part of his message said: "I am sure that the heroic resistance of the oppressed nation of Bosnia- Herzegovina heralds the ultimate victory and a bright future for the Bosnian nation."

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also hoped for further expansion of bilateral relations in political, cultural and economic fields.

Ministry Official Comments on Bosnia Accord

LD2711072595 Tehran IRNA in English
0703 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 27, IRNA — The Bosnian peace talks, though unjust, will help to prevent further bloodshed in the beleagured region, said a Foreign Ministry official. Speaking to the English-language daily IRAN NEWS published Monday [27 November], Director General for Central and Northern European Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpur stressed, "Now that the cease-fire is in place, we must wait and see how the countries involved and the international community will comply with their commitments.

No predictions can be made about the continuation of peace in Bosnia, but since this was a Bosnian decision, the ministry welcomes the cease-fire and sanctions the accord, he noted. "We are neither wholly optimistic nor pessimistic about the cease-fire. The U.S. rushed to finalize negotiations but evidently it can be implemented with haste," Rahimpur said.

"We believe the continuation of this trend depends on international equity and justice," he stated, though noting regretfully that justice has not been served in different trouble spots in the world.

On Iran's support for the Bosnian cause in major international organizations, the official reiterated that the actions of the Islamic nations, especially Iran, in different stages of the negotiations have influenced and accelerated a peaceful scenario for Bosnia. "Bosnia has survived due to the sacrifices of its Muslim citizens and the help of its friends, particularly Iran," he underlined.

Now that the international community has promised to rebuild Bosnia and preserve peace, as consultants and as friends, the commitment of Muslim countries towards Bosnia and its Muslim population has become deeper than before, Rahimpur continued.

Commenting on the conference of the contact group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) to be held on Tuesday and Wednesday in Tehran, he underscored the fact that it was upon the approval of the OIC contact group conference on July 21 in Geneva that Muslim countries decided to veto the U.N.-imposed arms embargo against Bosnia.

The Bosnian government has notified Malaysia, the OIC chairman, and Iran, the host of the conference, of its requirements for reconstruction and emergency assistance, the daily wrote.

Senior political and military delegations will attend the conference to discuss economic packages, reconstruction, the need for international cooperation and the latest developments in that republic.

German Envoy Urges Dialogue With European Union

LD2311231395 Tehran IRNA in English
2152 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bonn, Nov. 23, IRNA — Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Bonn, Hoseyn Musavian, met with the head of Iran-German parliamentarian group and the human rights spokesman of the Social Democrat Party on Nov. 23, declaring Iran's interest in a serious and critical dialog [with] the European Union.

Musavian said that Europe is following a double standard policy in regard to Iran, adding that the matter had to be put straight and right immediately.

The ambassador described Europe's backing of Saddam's aggression against Iran as a glaring evidence of its disregard in the observation of international norms on territorial integrity.

Musavian said Iran was the victim of chemical weapons put at the disposal of the aggressor Saddam by European countries. He pointed out that the Persian Gulf and the Middle East have turned into an arsenal of advanced military gadgets which have been exported to the region by western countries and which have contributed to jeopardizing the security of the region. "We are seriously interested in having a dialog with Europe on such issues candidly so that Europe may change its present attitudes towards Iran", the ambassador stressed.

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Kuwait Said Ready To Give Part of Trade Zone

LD2611190895 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE), Nov. 26, IRNA — In a meeting today in Kuwait with Iranian Ambassador Gholam-'Ali Sanati [name as received], the Kuwaiti Minister of Commerce and Industry Hilal al-Mutayri announced his country's readiness to put part of Kuwaiti free trade zone at Iran's disposal for promotion of trade ties.

He said the area to be given to Iran, would have a separate enclosure for the display of products of Fars Province which has traditionally enjoyed close commercial ties with Arab states of the Persian Gulf.

In addition, quite a large number of Iranians running business or working in Kuwait and other littoral states, hail from Fars.

In the meeting which was also attended by a trade delegation from Fars Province, the Kuwaiti official said the free trade zone in his country will be set up soon.

Iran-Kuwait expansion of trade relations was also reviewed at the meeting.

Military Holding Training Exercises, Maneuvers

Navy Trains in Gulf, Caspian Sea

LD2511144795 Tehran IRNA in English 1424 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 25, IRNA — Iran's naval force are to launch two military exercises in Persian Gulf and Caspian Sea on the occasion of Navy Day on November 28.

Navy Deputy Commander Admiral 'Abbas Mohtaj announced here Saturday [25 November] that a missile maneuvre which has already been launched since last Thursday will continue until December 1.

Mohtaj said that another war game will be launched in the Caspian Sea merely for training purposes.

'Thunderbolt' in Persian Gulf

LD2511163495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Missile maneuvers — Thunderbolt [Sa'eqeh] — began in the Persian Gulf. On the first day of maneuvers, participating vessels carried out their tactical training in the Persian Gulf successfully. The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy and Air Force personnel, as well as the Navy of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, took part in the maneuvers. The Thunderbolt missile maneuvers will last four days.

Missile Maneuvers in Hormuz Strait

LD2611101395 Tehran IRNA in English 0305 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov 26 (IRNA) — Saeghe-4 missile maneuvers have been launched in the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman on the eve of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy Day which coincides with Basij Week.

Khatamol Anbia Naval Headquarter released a statement announcing that the seven-day maneuvers which started last Thursday [23 November] were launched under this command post with the participation of units from the navy of the army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, and the air force.

The statement said that the first and second phases of the Saeghe-4 missile maneuvers are in progress.

During the maneuvers the ground-to-sea, air-to-sea, air-to-air missile units, and attack boats will conduct exercises to enhance closer coordination in joint operations and combat preparedness.

Forces Prepare for Maneuvers During 'Basij Week'

LD2611094795

[FBIS Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0730 GMT on 26 November carries a two-minute report about 313 units of the Ashura and al-Zahra battalions, who will reply to a general call today to prepare themselves for a "huge maneuver codenamed Mahdi's Companions," which will be conducted in Tehran on Monday 27 November. The general call has been made today coinciding with the fifth day of the Basij Week, designated as the "Basij Day and the Formation of a 20 million-strong Army."

The aim of the maneuver is "to test the organizational power of the Basij Resistance Force," Iranian radio reported. The maneuver begins at 0900 local time. Over 100,000 Basij forces from various resistance units will take part in the maneuver.

Nateq-Nuri Hails Constructive Role of Basij Forces

LD2311072695 Tehran IRNA in English 0721 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Nov. 23, IRNA — Basij (volunteer) forces guarantee the Islamic revolution and, therefore, should be highly respected, said Majles speaker 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri here Wednesday [22 November].

Addressing the outstanding recitors and memorizers of the Holy Qur'an, Nateq-Nuri lauded the contructive

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role of Basij forces in preserving the Islamic revolution versus diferent plots.

He added that Basij forces have successfully passed through all sensitive junctures by devoting their lives to defend their country.

Warning against perpetuation of plots by world arrogance against the Islamic revolution, the speaker said as long as the revolution is continuing its way while preserving its principles and values, enemies would hatch plots against it.

He further stressed that the Holy Qur'an prevents people from wrongdoing and sets an excellent pattern for the community to follow.

Rafsanjani Addresses Basij Gathering in Tehran

LD2711130495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] About 100,000 self-sacrificing basijis participated in exercises code-named Mahdi's Companions, on one of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corp's [IRGC] bases in Tehran today. [video shows thousands of basiji men and women, wearing red and green headbands, waving red, other colored banners, shouting slogans, including: "Ya Mahdi"; cuts to show President Rafsanjani addressing the crowd]

[Unidentified correspondent] President [Akbar] Hashemi-Rafsanjani addressed a gathering of about 100,000 basijis from the province of Tehran today. He stressed that the line-up of combatant men alongside their combatant basiji sisters reminds one of the glorious and blessed memories of the era of Holy Defense which changed the views and thoughts of the world toward the role of basijis in the task of reconstruction.

The president was speaking on the sixth day of Basij Week at the Imam Hasan Mojtaba base in Tehran. He praised the brave deeds and self-sacrifices of the basijis during Holy Defense and pointed to the divine motives behind the formation and organization of the devoted and religious forces in the basij. He said: Basij is a strong and solid backbone of the Islamic Revolution and is especially favored by the esteemed leader of the revolution, the wise and learned personality who is aware of the times we live in.

The president referred to the government's programs aimed at strengthening the basij and increasing the active presence of basijis in the areas of reconstruction. He emphasized that with the all-embracing and comprehensive projects which the government has placed at the disposal of the IRGC and the Basij, the basijis should be more serious and alert in the task of developing the country, especially the development of border regions and defense of the heritage of Islam. [passage omitted]

President Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD2411140695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran Provincial Network in Persian 0755 GMT 24 Nov 95

[Second sermon of Friday prayers delivered by President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in Tehran — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate. [passage omitted] Today I am going to discuss the Basij Week and my tour of Kordestan Province. Thanks to the valuable initiative of our late imam, we have witnessed the blossoming of a tree in our society named basij. This tree started bearing fruit from the first day it blossomed. Our society and our revolution is now enjoying the fruits of this sacred tree. [passage omitted]

The final issue I want to talk about is my recent visit to Kordestan Province; I usually give a report on my visits at the Friday prayer sermons. Kordestan is a very interesting and historical part of our country. We can go into detail about a number of important points of the visit. First, the condition of Kordestan: you know that in the past, immediately after the revolution, bandits turned the area into a center of banditry. Arrogance, too, decided that Kordestan was the vulnerable point from where infection could spread to the body of our Islamic body. Arrogance thought it could spread infection and germs from Kordestan into the veins and arteries of our Islamic society and thereby poison the country's affairs. Well, arrogance had a few areas in mind and Kordestan was one of them.

The people of Kordestan have paid a high price for the banditry and plots. Then there was the war. Kordestan was one of the centers of fighting, especially toward the end of the war. The people of Kordestan suffered a great deal.

Despite all the plots, even today a number of radio stations continue to agitate, provoke, cause sedition, and mislead the people there night and day. You take all these points into account and then look at the province — you may have only seen parts of the province, we saw all of it. It remains faithful to, and continues to serve, the revolution, the system, the Koran, Islam, the leadership, and the thoughts and works of the imam. This is an historical miracle. This is a very important point.

To be fair, one cannot imagine the extent to which the people are present on the scene of the revolution. We

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kept thinking: Could it be any better than this? But it could not. From the moment we arrived at Sanandaj Airport until the moment we left, we had the same feeling, whereever we were. [passage omitted]

The second point which was very interesting to me — and this is important for our future and the future of the world of Islam — was the unity between the Shi'is and Sunnis in the areas where there is a mixture of the two, such as Bijar, Ghorveh, and other areas. Honestly, there wasn't the slightest indication of disunity. I want to make this point clear to our preachers and to those who speak from the various platforms, to the newspapers and the media in general. I want to say to them: Be careful, do not mess up the unity which exists in the country by starting useless and empty discussions; do not create a feeling of grudge, sedition, and hatred — which some people do because they are ignorant, despite the fact that they care. [passage omitted]

There are those who sow the seeds of sedition in Kordestan, as there are everywhere, but it does not work over there. In the political arena too, as I have said, there are a number of radio stations which are constantly trying to mislead people. There are those who want to cause disunity. We have previously seen examples of this in Sistan va Baluchestan Province and in other regions.

Even before my trip, I knew about the Sunnis and the Kurds. I met them in Javanrud and Paveh and in the Kurdish-inhabited cities of West Azarbayjan. However, because this visit was to Kordestan Province itself, and especially because acts of provocation intensified before my visit...[pauses] The fugitive groups and their radio stations were preparing the ground, they were saying: The area is unsafe, people should stay at home, centers of gathering are insecure, etc. But the people didn't pay the slightest attention. They did not care about the threats.

In any case, there are around 1 billion Muslims facing over 3 billion non-Muslims. We have to be united if we want to keep Islam dear to us. Iran has to illustrate this unity, we have to be models and good guides. If we are not, how can we expect Islamic unity in Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Afghanistan, or any other place? Why should we expect two Islamic countries to be allies, if inside our own country we cannot be united? Our people are united, we can feel this.

Another point I wish to mention is the services and facilities we have provided in the Kordestan Province. Most of these facilities have been offered in the past three to four years. Before that the problem of the war and counter-revolution activities were the obstacles. Thanks to the extent of these services and the facilities we have provided in Kordestan, the people have come to realize that all claims by the counter-revolution, including the allegations that the Iranian Government is biased against some ethnic or religious minorities, are clearly untrue. All the public services in Kordestan Province, in all Kurdish villages up to the border settlements, are generally in better shape than other areas of our country. The roads, piped water, electricity, hygiene, and schools, which are the criteria of our performance in rural areas, are to some extent better in Kordestan Province.

Well, when the people see all these facilities, they come to appreciate the Islamic Republic's fairness. One cannot say that working on development projects in Kordestan to provide the public services, under the threat of the counter- revolution, is the same as working for instance in Gilan or Mazandaran. Nevertheless, the state employees have gone there and have completed projects, much better than the similar work performed in Mazandaran. Villages in Kordestan have better facilities than Mazandaran. This is not just a claim, we have data and statistics to prove it. I saw with my own eyes that in one village, named Khosrow Abad, 1,600 tractors were gathered to attend the ceremony for laying the foundation of a dam. The farmers buy these tractors through the state subsidy. The Government has given so many tractors to a single village. Even their non-irrigated arable farms are fully mechanized.

Despite the people's understanding that our development projects in the area are fundamental, the enemy alleges that our work is superficial to deceive the public. However, such allegations are foiled when they see we have piped gas from other regions of the country to reach the most remote towns in Kordestan. How can this be a superficial project? It is not as if we have only paved a street, redecorated the facade of an outstanding building, or have planted flowers in a public park. The fact that we have piped gas from Kangan to Kordestan proves that we have undertaken major projects. We plan to extend the gas pipeline to Baneh and up to the border with Iraq. Is this a minor project?

They can see the electricity transmission network. We have invested heavily to erect the towers and the power transmission lines that you can see stretching along the desert. Most of the investment in the past has been in foreign currency, but now it is made in the country. At any rate, it requires a very heavy investment. The people in Kordestan see that we have linked the country's power grid from Hamedan to Kermanshah, and from Azerbaijan to the region, so that they will never experience a power cut. Kordestan is supplied with certain sources of electricity from three different directions. This is no longer a superficial project.

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When the people of Kordestan see that we have invested over 110 billion rials in just one of the power transmission lines, when they see we are building a steel mill for them — something that only two or three of our provinces can have — then they realize that our work is fundamental. Building a steel mill in Kordestan indicates that fundamental work is being undertaken for its infrastructure.

A sufficient number of dams have been planned for the area. One of them was inaugurated when we visited the province. The people can see that the rest are under construction. They can see the engineers carrying out feasibility studies along the river banks where the dams are going to be built. Building dams is not a superficial project.

We have developed their agriculture, their main profession. We have invested in livestock farming, cottage industries, and other similar projects in order to help the people of Kordestan make a living. They can see we have looked after their cities, their industries, their livelihood, etc.

We have invested 200 billion rials in building a cement factory in Kordestan. The first phase of the building work was commissioned while I was there. What other project is more important for developing the infrastructure than this? We have built their roads, etc. The people realize that there is no difference in investment between Tehran and Kordestan. We were, therefore, enthusiastically welcomed by the people everywhere, up to Baneh and Marivan, near the Iraqi border.

The people along the border areas can see what is going on next door in Iraq and in the southeastern region of Turkey. This point was interesting to us there. The people have realized that their province has high potential for development. God sends them 30 to 40 billion cubic meters of water from the sky. Their soil is the most fertile. Their climate is suitable for farming. They have seen that for a long time in history, no one bothered to invest and harness this great abundance of resources provided by God. Now they realize that these resources can be tapped to build the future of their cities, their province, and their country. [passage omitted]

Our armed forces suffered many martyrs in the area. The local people have witnessed this. They saw that the sons of the same basij warriors, our young boys, went to Kordestan to save the people. They were martyred to provide security for the people. Previously they were warned that the basij warriors were going to crush them, but now they realize that the combatants go there to repulse the evils. They go to protect the people. Thanks to the presence and determination of these combatants, we have neutralized the conspiracy of bandits coming across the border.

At the same time, the people of Kordestan have seen that, so far, we have looked after millions of Iraqi Kurdish refugees in our camps. We have created jobs for them and have fed and clothed them. They can go back home whenever they feel it is safe, and can return here when their safety is threatened. We have always supported them. All our achievements have convinced the people that they are dealing with a fair and divine system. Many of them remember the crimes and bullying of the Pahlavi era. They will never forget that tyranny and our kindness.

God willing, our nation will remain vigilant, alert, and united against the ever-increasing wave of U.S. pressure, which resembles the crashing of waves on coastal rocks. God willing, our people will remain united and steadfast, the same as the rocks and mountains. [shouts of approval from audience]

Industry To Extend Range of Petrochemical Products

LD2711140995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The supply of substances for softening plastic, raw material for manufacturing melamine, varieties of magnetic tapes, electronic insulators [ayeqhe-ye electriki], detergents, solvents [hallal-ha], and antifreeze are due to increase with the exploitation of new products of the country's petrochemical industry.

Our correspondent spoke to a member of the Board of Directors of Iran's petrochemical industries. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Unidentified correspondent] The National Petrochemical Industries intends to manufacture domestically all the country's domestic petrochemical product needs for this year [ending 29 March 1996] by completing the construction of all the units of this industry which are in the process of being built. And it plans to export some of the surplus goods produced. One of the officials of Iran's National Petrochemical Industries says:

[Begin unidentified official's recording] We have two other projects this year which, God willing, will be officially opened in the near future. The Urmiyyeh petrochemical unit opened in the month of Mordad [corresponding to Aug 1995] by the respected President [Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani]. Another unit is the [?duoethyl hegzalone] unit in Arak which has fortunately reached operational stage and started preliminary production.

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The next unit which will, God willing, become operational on the eve of the Ten Days of Dawn [1-11 February 1996] is the big 850,000-tonne petrochemical unit in Khorasan which is in its pre-operational stage. The fourth unit which is in the process of being built and completed is the petrochemical unit in Tabas. We hope that its pre-operational stages will be reached at the end of the year 1374 [year ending 20 March 1996] and that it will become fully operational at the start of the year 1375. [end recording]

New Units of Arak Petrochemical Complex Operational

LD2711161695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The second phase of the Arak petrochemical complex became operational this afternoon in the presence of First Vice President [Hasan] Habibi.

The cost of these new units was $800 million in foreign currency and 550 billion rials. With the operation of these units, the production of polymer and chemical substances in this petrochemical complex has reached 550,000 tonnes a year.

Each tonne of the Arak petrochemical complex's variety of new products has a production value of $600 to $3,000.

Car Manufacturing Said Up by 80 Percent

LD2311164895 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 23 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] During the first eight months of the current [Iranian] year [began 21 March 95] production of various kinds of cars increased by 80 percent compared with the same period the previous year.

The industries minister told our correspondent that car manufacturing plants were obliged to use domestically-produced spare parts in order to reduce dependency of the car manufacturing industry. He added: This will eventually lead to the stabilization of car prices. [passage omitted]

Paper Lists Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez's Candidates

96LA0064A Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 12 Nov 95 pp 1, 9

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran—An informed source here yesterday told IRAN NEWS that Tehran's Jame' Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez has nominated candidates for the upcoming Majles (Parliament) elections.

The source who requested anonymity said of the 30 candidates of Tehran's Jame' Rowhaniyat-e Mobarez, who are currently serving in the Fourth Majles, only 19 have been proposed by the JRM for the next term of the Majles.

These are Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Akbar Abutorabifard, Dr. Mohammad Javad Ardeshir Larijani, Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Reza Taqavi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Qorban-'Ali Dorri-Najafabadi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Dr. Hassan Rowhani, Mrs. Maryam Behruzi, Engineer 'Ali Naqi Khamushi, Dr. 'Abbas Sheybani, Mahmud Saber-Hamishegi, Dr. Seyyed Shahabeddin Sadr, Dr. 'Ali 'Abbaspur, Habibollah Asgarowladi, Mrs. Nafiseh Fayyazbakhsh, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Movahhedi-Kermani, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq-Nuri, Engineer Morteza Nabavi, Mrs. Monireh Nowbakht.

The informed source added that the Jame' has not nominated some of its candidates who ran in the previous elections and are currently MPs.

These are Dr. Sa'id Raja'i-Khorasani, Mohammad Hashem Rahbari, Engineer Mohammad Kazem Seyfian, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas 'Ali 'Amid-Zanjani, Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Ghayuri-Najafabadi, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohsen Mojtahed Shabestari, Mrs. Dr. Marzieh Vahid Dastjerdi.

Some of the aforesaid figures do not intend to run for the forthcoming elections for personal reasons, while some others have not been nominated by the Jame' due to differences of views.

On the candidates who will run instead of the aforesaid figures, the source said that the Jame' has so far endorsed the candidacy of political and social advisor of the Judiciary Asadollah Badamchian, former Minister of Health and Treatment Dr. Musa Zargar, former Vice-President and former head of the Physical Education Organization Dr. Hasan Ghaffurifard, former chancellor of Tehran University Dr. Gholam-'Ali Afruz, former chancellor of Sharif University of Technology Dr. Seyyed Mohammad E'temadi.

He said that no decision has so far been taken on the remaining six candidates.

IRAN-E FARDA on Its Present, Future Role

96LA0005A Tehran IRAN-E FARDA in Persian Jul-Aug 95 pp 6, 7

[FBIS Translated Text] With the publication of its 19th issue, IRAN-E FARDA began its fourth year of publication. Such occasions require an examination of past performance and a consideration of future expectations.

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"We Iranians defend and promote our positions in the areas of ideas, intellectual positions and personal or group policies according to the social and political conditions, sometimes clearly and sometimes with irony and sarcasm. Acting on personal interest and short-term matters is common among us, and we sometimes lead the world in purely intellectual matters or in the accumulation of interest and wealth. However little work or significant effort has been done in the area of the quality of coming together, coordination, agreement, and finally the cohabitation of ideas, position, and personal and social interests, in order for our nation to make progress and to attain the kind of welfare that befits its position, its history, and its national talents." [1]

The effort to overcome this defect is the primary content of more than a century of intellectual activity in Iran.

The creation of public acceptance of the principle of putting overall and national interests ahead of personal or group interests is something that is achieved through the creation of a civilized society and the formation of a national government within a country; it is also an indication of moving away from authoritarian, despotic, and traditional governments.

In the West, the formation of a civilized society and national governments is the fruit of almost two centuries of thought and intellectual and cultural creativity by thinkers and intellectuals who were able to understand their society's problems and existing situation and to make the public sensitive and attentive to them. European society actively sought ways out of those limitations, and it was after these cultural and social changes that political leaders appeared in the areas of the policies of nations and the new European governments were established.

The roots of the side effects of the Western social and cultural changes also shook traditional Iranian society. "It must be acknowledged that in the last hundred years in which the people of Iran have begun a national movement to make up for backwardness and attain a system for a leading people and for happiness, health, and social development, they have tasted freedom and an open atmosphere three or four times. They have tasted four springtimes of freedom, so to speak. However, these four times have been limited to just these four short and passing periods and did not last."[2]

The characteristic of this period was a simultaneous blend of social and cultural activity and innovation, and political activity and innovation. Yet every innovation, creative act, or social and cultural reform, which by definition should have lasted through a period of social life to achieve realization and structure, quickly came up against expectations and political opposition. In various areas, from those with ideas defending parliamentary democracy to those believing in centralized reform, from Marxist thought and ideas leaning toward government socialism to those believing in a free economy along with free investment in the world, from reformist ideas based on traditional and religious ideas and religious revivalists, each and every one inevitably faced political actions and reactions at the beginning of its cultural and social life. In almost every case the founders, despite their initial intentions, were forced to get involved in political struggle.

Perhaps this can be said to be the outcome of the long period of despotic rule in this country. Centralized despotism emptied the society of culture. Only one official and made-to-order culture existed. Every cultural and social innovation, like it or not, was called an opponent of the official culture and was faced with opposition and despotic power. The practical result was that social and cultural innovators, despite having no intentions of political activity, were led in this direction at the very outset.

Unfortunately, during these years in the area of political activity we primarily see ideologues and theorists who got involved in political work despite having a past and a background that differs from the exigencies of political pragmatism. Naturally, the essential conflicts between these two areas had an effect on their actions, words, and behavior. Those people got into political work in the framework of their own ideas before ethical theory was converted to ethical practicality, and the pragmatism prevailing in the area of political activity threw them into confusion, leaving them as nothing other than pawns and tools.

There is no doubt that any ideologue, theorist, or person attached to an intellectual school of thought or cultural practice also has the right to get involved in political and social work. Though he brought a divine message and called for humanity's growth and development, when the Prophet of God (peace be upon him) was invited by Avas and Khazarj to live in Yathrab and to get involved in resolving their disputes, he assessed and calculated his and his nation's precise capacities, accepted this proposal and got involved in a series of responsibilities and social conflicts. We saw that this correct practical choice also expanded the domain of his call.

In the contemporary world also every person with ideas and principles may choose a special political party or program and vote for it. The politician or political innovator whose only agenda in this regard is to achieve his goal and special political program, enters into a struggle for power to reach his objective. Power is risky and corrupt by nature. In this activity he will either face

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risk, destruction, corruption, and loss of reputation, or success and satisfaction. In any case, the people will accept his advancement in this direction either by force or choice.

Is it right that the fate of a society's social and cultural life should also be tied directly to this fate and its risks? Should its defeat or decline be equated with the defeat of its beliefs and values? This is a great mistake that unfortunately has been repeated many, many times in our contemporary history, and even in our Iranian and Islamic historical past. With good intentions and individual and social goodness, the people have declared their allegiance to many calls, and unwittingly they have gotten into a political struggle that did not have that much result for their social life.

Despite the many bright moments in its political history, our society has not advanced that much in terms of its social culture. "It is unfortunate what forces have been destroyed in both of these paths and what resources have been lost. If on the other hand, instead of hitting the enemy over the head with a powerful and crushing fist, a powerful and crushing fist came down over these huge walls of the middle ages which have tried to encircle our reason, our religion and our thoughts, then there would be a way for the light to shine into the places of seclusion, into the cells, into the precincts and ideas.

"In this case, instead of a movement going ahead only in the mind, with hands in the pockets and the legs suspended and abandoned in the air, that light would do something so that this man would stand on his feet and walk, would work with his hands and think with his mind. Our intellectuals have worked while our workers have been deprived, heedless, stupefied, and deluded, far from public life and deprived of the great prophets of their age..."[3]

At the present time our society is made up of individuals who mostly pursue their interests as individuals for life, survival, and social welfare, and they cannot and do not wish to pursue these interests as a body in comprehensive and general frameworks.

It appears that the movement of the people of Iran in this period must decisively and clearly divide the fate of these two domains. Despite all the ties and mutual relations, stasis or progress in the one must not mean stasis or progress in the other.

Due to the deviated nature of the governments in our nation's contemporary history, in the area of social reforms so far most of the sensitivities and expectations have been diverted to political power and the quality of its rule. Most of our culture and political literature have also been made up of discussions about the corruption and oppression of governments, the quality of the resistance against them, desirable rule and its characteristics, and the social and class characteristics of talented manpower for government. Little attention is paid to the fact that if there is aggression, then the road to aggression is definitely open and to prevent it, leverage must be established in society that will prevent governments from being distorted and deviated.

This is something to which little attention has been paid in our society's contemporary social and political movements. We have had many expensive reforms through the creation of political bodies, and they have emphasized reforms in social matters. However, reformers have considered it their main responsibility to create and reinforce supervisory bodies. We have not seen much in the way of the formation of social bodies to reinforce supervision and popular and social resistance. Due to the effects of this very problem, at the present time in our society there is the willingness (but not the possibility) to form many political parties. Despite the fact that society has no political parties, all the forces work against each other in the form of policies and parties. However, the ability and the desire to form societies and social, professional, and supervisory organizations are quite limited, and despite the image and appearance of these bodies, in no way can they be considered parts and manifestations of the larger social whole that is this same Iranian society.

"The first step toward designing and realizing a civilized society is the creation of space or a ground for discussion and the mutual exchange of ideas and interests within the framework of loyalty to this same totality, meaning the nation and the country, so that during these discussions, even if society's various tendencies cannot overcome their differences, they can at least gradually get used to one another and each one can acknowledge and hold to the existence of the other to the extent of its social weight and position and to the extent of the use they have in forming and strengthening the total society, so it will be possible logically to achieve common or more comprehensive modes and positions."[4] This direction is different than the direction whose attention and focus is on confronting and reforming the centralized political government.

In this process individuals with various inclinations and political policies have often come together in the framework of social and national bodies, and at the comprehensive and national levels, most of the factional and procedural inclinations have gone out of the social and popular bodies. Of course, it is the simultaneous growth of social and political bodies that prepare the way for forming a civilized society. IRAN-E FARDA has since the beginning and does now consider itself

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a part of such an experiment, so that the paths to a common direction and social unity will be opened as much as possible.

"IRAN-E FARDA has sought and continues to seek ways, fundamentals, and ideas which, in a word, will make the nation of Iran stronger, give a fuller sense to nationalist meanings and will reduce its internal dispersion, decline, agitation, and hostility while increasing social and nationalist ties. If something called Iran and Iranian is to remain in the world, then there must be the expectation of a day when all of these inclinations, from ideas to religious sects, with the various interests that are active, will achieve an open and civilized atmosphere of cooperation. Without this atmosphere, is it reasonable to envision that endurance, life and pride?"[5]

To deepen this experience, one of society's permanent needs is the development of the theoretical and ideological foundations of the various social and political categories. The various individuals and groups always theorize on their experiences and interests and give them an ideological form and framework for use in their subsequent activity. This is the nature of all human and social activity. Human beings move forward not under the guidance of instinct but through personal choice or social guidance. Experience has proven that theoretical and ideological organizations, after reaching a level of logical coordination, avoid accepting change from within, yet social experiences are constantly undergoing change and demand new assessments and guidance.

For this reason, in today's rushing world, tools are needed that seek and understand changes and reflect them at various levels, in order to break down barriers and to require the various forces to allow changes into their points of view and practices. IRAN-E FARDA considers it one of the present necessities to make efforts to develop the theoretical and ideological foundations that lead to social work. It is hoped that this itself will be useful in this beneficial process, so that those with ideological beliefs will believe that they must descend from the level of desirable and beautiful aspirations and accept the effects of real and practical necessities in expanding and developing their theoretical foundations.

Footnotes

1. IRAN-E FARDA, "Why...", IRAN-E FARDA, issue 1.
2. ibid.
3. Dr. 'Ali Shari'ati, *Complete Works 27*, p. 285.
4. "After Two Years...", IRAN-E FARDA, Issues 13 and 14.
5. ibid.

Pakistan

Mirani Rules Out Possibility of Indian Attack

BK2611110095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Nov 95 p 12

[Report by Majid Qazi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Quetta: Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has ruled out the possibility of any Indian military attack on Pakistan. Talking to newsmen here Saturday [25 November] he, however, said the armed forces of the country were fully prepared and capable enough to meet any aggression.

Replying to a question whether there was any threat of military attack by India in view of the deteriorating law and order situation in Karachi, the Minister said there were no chances of military adventurism by India.

"The government was fully aware of the threat perception and was fully prepared to meet any such situation."

Responding to a question about the recent conspiracy for a coup d'etat in the armed forces, Mirani said an investigation into the matter was still continuing. "As soon as it is completed, the whole issue would be made public."

To another question he said the government was not against the fundamentalists in the country.

We are against terrorism and will take all necessary steps to curb it.

Asked to comment on the allegations that high-ups received kick-backs in the deal of Mirage fighters, the Defence Minister said, "When the deal had not yet been finalised, how can anybody get kickbacks."

Asked how the government was planning to get the American weapons in future as the much trumpeted Brown Amendment was a one-time waiver of the Pressler Amendment, Aftab Shaban Mirani said a continuous struggle was required for this.

"Nobody dreamt of the Brown Amendment about three years ago when Pakistan was going to be declared a terrorist state and then things changed."

He said now we should hope for better relations with the U.S. in the future.

Leghari, Bhutto Discuss Egyptian Embassy Bombing

BK2611132295 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 26 Nov 95 pp 1, 9

[Report by Raja Zulfikar]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto held

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an in-depth meeting at Aiwan-e-Sadar on Saturday [25 November] and discussed a host of issues with a special reference to the ongoing probe into the Egyptian Embassy bombing.

The five-hour meeting covered national and international issues but a discussion on the embassy blasts and its repercussions on Pak- Egypt relations consumed much of the time, well-informed sources said, adding that information so far gathered on the blasts was thoroughly assessed.

Sources confirmed Leghari and Benazir also considered the reaction of the Egyptian govt with a particular reference to the statements made by Egyptian ministers in the wake of the embassy tragedy. The president and the prime minister were assured that the authorities would very soon track down the culprits who devastated the chancery of the brother Muslim country leaving 19 people dead and more than 60 wounded.

The president and the PM condemn terrorism in all shapes and forms and they debated this issue at their meeting, "an official spokesman commented. The two also spoke on the latest situation in Afghanistan.

The premier who also had lunch with the president discussed the ongoing anti-govt movement of the PML [Pakistan Muslim League]-N and the response it evoked in the masses. Another issue which figured at the meeting was the opposition's agitation and statements on the alleged maltreatment to Shahbaz Sharif at the hands of an FIA [Federal Investigation Agency] official.

The Punjab situation and the expansion of the provincial cabinet was also taken up. The prime minister is due to arrive in Lahore this afternoon (Sunday) and may have a meeting with Governor Puruab Raja Saroop, Chief Minister Arif Nakai and Senior Minister Mushtaq Awan.

Already, PML-J chief Hamid Nasir Chatta and Faisal Saieh Hayat have met the prime minister and discussed the cabinet expansion.

During the day, the prime minister was informed about the progress of the probe into the blasts. She was told that the police had found a major clue which could lead the authorities to the real faces behind the heinous act.

"I myself informed the prime minister that the police have traced the registration number of the vehicle that was used for destroying the Egyptian Embassy," Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar told THE NEWS. He said he could not accompany the prime minister to the Egyptian Embassy on Saturday, but "I informed her later that we have found out that the vehicle used in the blast was a 1992 model Mazda with the registration number Attock-A 1400."

Babar lauded the Islamabad Police and the Attock SP who he said have done wonders in days. The vehicle used in the blasts had been sold five times and its colour had also been changed from blue from red. The police are understood to have traced the buyer but are keeping it a secret.

Mohammad Asghar adds: One of the investigators said, it was not the vehicle specified earlier, it is, another car and the explosives used in the blast were not locally made. "The police were hunting for the man using the vehicle for the last two months.

In a related development; a group of American experts is expected to arrive in Islamabad to assist the investigations already probing into the embassy blasts.

On the other hand, the Egyptian authorities have so far not furnished the particulars of the five Afghan employees of the embassy. These Afghans had been working with the embassy for the last ten years, said a source. "Three of the Afghans were killed in the blast white two are still missing. We shall contact their families in Afghanistan and tally their pictures and particulars when furnished by the Egyptian Embassy. It is not yet clear how many suicide bombers carried out the attack, one or more."

Meanwhile, the 14 Somalians, mostly students, who were detained by Margalia Police on Wednesday for questioning, have been neither released nor charged.

A Somalian student Abdullah told THE NEWS, "If they have committed any crime, then an FIR [First Information Report] should be registered against them and they should be produced before the court of magistrate. But the police are treating them like animals.

The detained Somalians were shopping when held by the police. Although they produced their documents, the police refused to let them go saying that they were illegal immigrants, Abdullah said:

However, dozens of Afghan nation arrested after the embassy blasts have been to judicial lock-up.

Bhutto Visits Egyptian Embassy, Vows Cooperation

BK2511141195 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has reiterated that Pakistan will never allow terrorists to operate from its soil against any country, particularly a Muslim nation. We believe in the rule of law and we are determined to eliminate the menace of terrorism from our society, she said adding Pakistan has supported international efforts to eradicate terrorism.

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The prime minister made this statement when she visited the Embassy of Egypt which was recently subjected to terrorism. On her arrival at the embassy, the prime minister was received by the ambassador of Egypt, Mr. Nu'man Jalal. He gave details of the two bomb blasts which severely damaged the embassy building. Talking to members of the Egyptian media, the prime minister said:

[Begin Bhutto recording] The people who cannot win elections, they adopt undemocratic means and means of violence and the tragedy is that they exploit the name of Islam. Because, Islam does not permit murder and this is totally against the principles of Islam; it is against the principles of democracy; and it is against the principles of civilization. Egypt and Pakistan are cooperating together against terrorism. And because we have been cooperating together, the soil of Pakistan was chosen to make this attack on the Egyptian embassy to send a message both to the Egyptians and to the Pakistanis that the terrorists want to answer back which we are cooperating in extraditing. But, we cannot be deterred by such acts of cowardice. We have a responsibility to the Government of Egypt, the Government of Pakistan; we have a responsibility to our people. And if we want the strength of the Muslim world, when that strength comes from the rule of law, we must together combat the menace of terrorism, extremism, [and] violence. And we in Pakistan are determined to do that. I have told my minister for interior to cooperate closely with Egyptian authorities and no effort will be spared in unmasking, punishing, extraditing, if necessary and when necessary, those who are involved in this act and those who had colluded and assisted or abetted in this act. [end recording]

Jihad Gives 'Evidence' To Back Embassy Bomb Claim

MM2411154995 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 24 Nov 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jihad Announces Evidence of Its Bombing of Embassy; Pakistan Arrests 10 Suspects, Imposes Visas on Foreigners; Egypt Closes Brotherhood Headquarters, Imprisons Their Cadres"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo — [passage omitted] Meanwhile, the hard- line Islamic Jihad group has said that it has evidence that it was the one that bombed the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad last Sunday [19 November].

A statement issued by the Jihad group, a copy of which was sent to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI's office in Cairo, denies the claim by the International Justice group, saying that the claim by the so-called "Justice group is a very clear lie."

The Jihad group's statement added: "The Jihad group will therefore make public some of the reports sent to the group's leadership during surveillance operations."

The statement said that most of the embassy's staff arrive in the embassy between 1000 and 1030. Most employees often gather on Sundays and Wednesdays to prepare the diplomatic bag.

The statement added: "This is why it was decided to carry out the operation on one of those two days."

The statement said that the embassy's staff use 1988-model Toyota cars, with the exception of the ambassador, who uses a white Mercedes. The statement listed the registration numbers of five of the embassy's cars. [passage omitted]

Arabs in Peshawar Said Hiding After Embassy Blast

BK2611125495 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 26 Nov 95 p 1

[Report by Murtaza Malik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PESHAWAR, Nov 25 - As many as 200 Arab nationals residing illegally in Peshawar had reportedly gone underground to avoid a possible externment or arrest following the recent bomb blast in the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad that killed at least 17 people and injured over 60.

Official sources said that most of the Arabs, working under the garb of the NGOs were believed to have crossed over to neighbouring Afghanistan which has been serving as a safe hide-out whenever a drive has been initiated against them.

This has happened several times and once again the bordering areas across had provided them with necessary protection. The delayed action had made their task easier to avoid arrest otherwise had the action been initiated swiftly many of the suspects would have been arrested. The official sources said that so far only three Arab nationals had been taken into custody to probe the Embassy blast.

The list of the foreigners residing here illegally for several years contains more than 300 names but in actual fact the number was far beyond that figure.

After the Afghan war many of them had preferred to settle down here as they were wanted by their governments in different criminal cases. It was believed that some of the Arabs going underground might

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have been hiding in and around Peshawar through the courtesy of some of the religious organisations.

On the other hand about 30 former Khad agents had been identified and their particulars had been submitted to the government with the report that they were likely to commit acts of sabotage including bomb blasts in Peshawar.

The reports said that majority of these agents were residing in Hayatabad township and in the Badhber area and they too were likely to be rounded up any time. Some of the suspects had already been arrested in connection with the recent explosions in and around Peshawar.

Egyptian Embassy Attack Investigation Continues

Car Used in Blast Identified

BK2511154995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A press release issued by the Foreign Office this evening says officials concerned have succeeded in detecting the vehicle used in the blast in the Egyptian Embassy. It is a dark blue color Mazda pickup which was registered in District Attock with the registration number AKA-1400.

In the past, this vehicle was owned by several persons. Officials are now carrying out an investigation on the last owner of this vehicle.

'Arab National' Said Suspect

BK2611155195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Interior Minister Nasirullah Khan Babar has said that one Arab national has been identified among the culprits involved in the bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad. It is believed that this culprit is one of the ring leaders of terrorists who attacked the embassy. He added that one of the vehicles used in the blast was purchased by Arab nationals from Raja Imdad Hussain of Kalagan subdistrict of Chakwal District. Investigators suspect that other members of the group fled Pakistan after the incident. The interior minister said the extradition request will be made as soon as they know to which country they have gone.

Efforts Appreciated by Egypt

BK2611162495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Egyptian Government has appreciated the efforts made by Pakistani authorities to fully investigate the bomb blast at the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad last week. These views were expressed by the Egyptian ambassador to the Foreign Office on the instructions of his government to be conveyed to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Egyptian ambassador has also conveyed special appreciation of the Egyptian interior minister for his Pakistani counterpart, Major General, retired, Nasirullah Khan Babar.

Sri Lanka

President: Enemies of Peace on 'Verge of Defeat'

BK2411115895 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Chandrika Kumaratunga says that the enemies of peace who were once thought to be invincible are on the verge of defeat. In a (?special) message to the nation yesterday, she stressed, however, that this was not against the Tamil community but against ruthless terrorists. The historic struggle to unite the nation will culminate soon. The president paid the tribute to soldiers who had sacrificed their lives at the battlefront and others who are fighting to protect this country.

She said that the liberation of Jaffna from terrorist rule would be announced in the next few days. This would be good news for all those who support the cause of peace. Such a historic victory must be celebrated peacefully; only then will it be a triumph for all Sri Lankans. Mrs. Kumaratunga reiterated that the military success was not a victory for the Sinhala community alone or in any way defeat for Tamil people. It is a responsibility of the government and the public to be aware of communal elements who will try to create chaos.

The president urged the people, the armed forces and the police to be extremely vigilant. The armed forces and the police have been instructed to take firm action against anyone who violates the law. A special bureau to receive information on such violations has been set up at the Presidential Secretariat. In conclusion, President Kumaratunga urged all people to unite to build a peaceful Sri Lanka in which the rights of every community would be protected.

LTTE Leader Rejects Government Peace Talks Offer

BK2611165295 Hong Kong AFP in English 1644 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 26 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's top Tamil Tiger guerrilla leader Sunday [26 November] rejected an offer of peace talks with the Sri Lankan government and vowed to keep up the campaign for independence.

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Velupillai Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said in a pre-recorded speech over his clandestine radio that he was not willing to negotiate under military pressure.

"As long as Sri Lankan armed forces remain in Jaffna (the LTTE bastion in the island's north) the door for peace talks will remain shut tight," Prabhakaran said.

The message was broadcast to coincide with Prabhakaran's 41st birthday and mark the LTTE's week-long Heros' Week ending Monday.

"The Sri Lankan government may hoist its flag in Jaffna after reducing it to ashes and claim the capture of the Tamil kingdom. They will gloat over the capture... and then release signals for talks.

"The LTTE will not succumb to a deal at the point of a gun," Prabhakaran said.

The Sri Lankan military remains poised for a final assault on Jaffna and has maintained a siege on the rebel citadel for the past three days after the first phase of a major offensive began on October 17.

Prabhakaran said the fall of Jaffna would be a temporary set back and vowed to turn the tables on the security forces.

As the army tightened its grip on Jaffna, President Chandrika Kumaratunga last week offered conditional talks with the LTTE in a bid to end the protracted separatist war which has claimed more than 50,000 lives since 1972.

Hindu Council Calls For Immediate End To War

BK2211145695 Hong Kong AFP in English
1433 GMT 22 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 22 (AFP) — A Sri Lankan Hindu council Wednesday [22 November] urged President Chandrika Kumaratunga to immediately end the war against Tamil Tiger guerrillas in the northern Jaffna peninsula.

The All Ceylon Hindu Congress criticised Kumaratunga, who is a Buddhist and a member of the majority Sinhalese community, for backtracking on her pledge to implement a political solution to end ethnic bloodshed in the country.

The council warned that "communal feelings" against minority Tamils were increasing around the country as a direct consequence of the ongoing fighting in the island's north and would widen the country's ethnic divide.

Tamils who are mostly Hindus are in the minority in Sri Lanka.

The religious council also called on the government to ensure that refugees are helped in returning to their homes, be compensated for their losses and discrimination against Tamils across the country be stopped.

Meanwhile, government minister S. Thondaman protested against the alleged desecration of Hindu temples.

"It is very distressing for the Hindu community to note that some Hindu temples have been desecrated," he said.

In a letter to Kumaratunga, Thondaman said security forces had entered a Hindu temple in Colombo, thereby violating its sanctity. He said the government must ensure religious harmony.

Government troops are now consolidating their position in northern Jaffna town, one month after beginning an operation to wrest control of the peninsula from the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

More than 50,000 people have died in Sri Lanka's protracted and bloody ethnic war.

'Major' Government Recruiting Drive Begins

BK2411153295 Hong Kong AFP in English
1509 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Nov 24 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan military Friday [24 November] announced a major enlistment drive as thousands of soldiers tightened a siege on the Tamil rebel bastion of Jaffna amid sporadic fighting which left 15 soldiers dead.

The army said it was immediately recruiting 10,000 men to boost the battle against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and maintain the blockade on the rebels' northern town of Jaffna.

"We urgently need another division to replace those killed and wounded in fighting in recent months," a military spokesman said as the LTTE killed 11 more government soldiers in an ambush in the country's east.

Security forces also lost another four soldiers in fresh fighting Friday on the Jaffna peninsula itself, while troops backed by tanks and armoured cars began consolidating in areas newly captured from the guerrillas.

"We are now digging in," chief military spokesman Sarath Munasinghe said. "We are going to stay put. The Tigers (in Jaffna) can now either surrender, take cyanide or jump into the sea."

Travellers from the region said a huge explosion at a LTTE ammunition depot in the Jaffna peninsula

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Thursday killed at least 10 rebels and four civilians. At least 65 civilians were also wounded.

Relief agencies which operate offices in the region said it was a powerful blast which devastated the entire neighbourhood but discounted claims by Sri Lanka's state-owned news agency that 500 people had perished in the explosion.

The blast came as the army mounted its siege on Jaffna Thursday and trapped Tiger guerrillas by cutting off their access routes to the northern mainland in an apparent bid to starve the rebels to submission.

"They were in a hurry to load ammunition and come for an attack to lift the siege," a defence source said. "In their haste, something went wrong and the entire ammunition dump blew up."

Official figures show that 472 security personnel and 1,750 rebels have died since the military operation was launched last month, signalling it as the final offensive to dislodge the Tigers from Jaffna.

Military officials said soldiers were still 2.5 kilometres (1.5 miles) away from the Jaffna town centre after making a spectacular entry into the municipal limits of the town by capturing Nallur on the eastern edge of Jaffna on Monday.

The blockade of Jaffna came despite the LTTE's downing Wednesday of an air force transport plane which was taking 60 security personnel to the battle front. Navy and air force rescuers Friday recovered the bodies of eight men.

It was not immediately clear if the army would be able to sustain its 35,000 soldiers in Jaffna without the vital air-bridge. Monsoon rains have also prevented the navy from operating boats in rough weather.

The only land route to the Jaffna peninsula is under rebel control.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga went on state radio Thursday, saying the first phase of the operation was coming to an end, thanked security forces and expressed condolences to families of soldiers killed in action.

She also announced that she would present a revised package of proposals offering greater autonomy to minority Tamils once the Tigers were subdued by the military.

Kumaratunga, a member of the majority Sinhalese community, said failure of successive governments to resolve the problems of minority Tamils led to "terrorism."

Shortly after coming to power last year, Kumaratunga opened talks with the LTTE but in April this year the rebels abruptly pulled out to resume their protracted campaign for an independent homeland in the island's northeast.

LTTE Launches 'Intensive Recruiting Drive'

BK2711143895 Colombo SUNDAY OBSERVER in English 26 Nov 95

[Report by S. Selvakumar — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has reportedly commenced an intensive recruiting drive in Thenmarachchi and in the Vanni among the large population of civilians displaced from Jaffna and is urging all over 14 years of age to join the Tigers' fighting cadres.

"The military may enter Thenmarachchi and Vadamarachchi after capturing the Jaffna city. The only way we could stop this is to increase our strength and this is possible only if all those who are above 14 join us", Tigers political wing leader Thamil Chelvam is reported to have told a public meeting in Thenmarachchi a couple of days ago when the Security Forces brought areas around Nallur, on the outskirts of the Jaffna city, under control.

According to announcements over the Voice of Tigers radio, people in Kaithady, in Thenmarachchi division have been directed by the Tiger hierarchy to vacate their homes and travel further southwards and several boats are engaged in ferrying the people across Kilali to areas in Vanni. Commenting on this move, Jaffna watchers believe that the LTTE feels that Security Forces would first enter Kaithady in the event of an attempt made to secure Thenmarachchi also.

Meanwhile, travellers from Thenmarachchi who arrived in Puliyankulam, further south of Kilinochchi said that boat services across Kilali continue without interruption despite the government's gazette notification declaring the area a no go zone.

These travellers have also said that large buildings in the Jaffna city have been blasted by LTTE bomb experts in a bid to prevent the military using these buildings as camps once they capture Jaffna city. The first such building to be blasted by the Tigers was a modern huge structure to commemorate the dead Tiger cadres built at Kopay. Reports from Jaffna also indicated that the Tigers are depending mainly on booby traps and landmines they have buried in the town to prevent the capture of the Jaffna city. The LTTE is also now attempting to sever the military's supply lines to the war front.

In the East in Vakarai, Badulla Road and Paduvankarai areas where the LTTE still has control, Tigers have

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asked that schools should be reopened and classes conducted. Following this announcement many school teachers who are still on vacation have disappeared from their homes fearing that the Tigers may force them to conduct classes. The fate of the Vice Chancellor of the Eastern University Professor S. Sandaanam who was abducted by the Tigers from Vandarumoolai a couple of weeks ago is still unknown according to reports from Batticaloa.

Tamil 'Guerrillas' Launch Gas Attack in Jaffna

BK2511100495 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Nov 25 (AFP) — Tamil Tiger guerrillas launched a gas attack on Sri Lankan troops in a bid to lift a siege on the rebel bastion of Jaffna, sparking heavy battles which left 84 dead on both sides, officials said Saturday [25 November].

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) used an unidentified gas in a daring attempt overnight Friday to infiltrate army lines surrounding Jaffna town in the island's north.

Heavy fighting lasted until early Saturday and left four soldiers and 80 guerrillas dead, the defence ministry said.

The ministry said in a statement that the nature of the gas used in the atttack at Ariyalai, near Jaffna town, was not known but it did not cause any casualties as troops were prepared for a chemical attack.

LTTE radios monitored after the attack said the group's intelligence chief, known by his nom de guerre Pottu Amman, and another leader, known only as Balraj, were in the area.

The chemical attack, the first since 1990 when the LTTE fired chlorine gas cylinders into a besieged military camp near Batticaloa town on the east coast, came as soldiers were tightening their grip on Jaffna.

A military spokesman said a large number of Tigers took part in the attack on army units at Ariyalai and nearby Colombothurai with small arms.

The troops beat back the attack with artillery and small arms.

"It is clearly evident that the terrorists were making a desperate attempt to extricate their cadres trapped within Jaffna town area," the defence ministry said.

Thousands of troops backed by tanks began a siege of Jaffna on Thursday as part of a major offensive launched on October 17 to dislodge the LTTE from Jaffna, the capital of a de facto state run by them since 1990.

The government also announced a major enlistment drive to recruit 10,000 soldiers to boost the army's campaign against the LTTE and replace those killed or wounded in the latest fighting.

According to official figures, 476 security personnel and an estimated 1, 830 LTTE guerrillas have been killed since the military operation was launched in Jaffna peninsula.

The army has captured vast areas in the peninsula, and has now ringed Jaffna town, trapping a large number of LTTE guerrillas.

The government has also banned boat traffic on the Jaffna lagoon as part of the siege to prevent Tamil civilians from travelling in rebel boats to other areas held by the LTTE.

The London office of the LTTE, in a statement received Saturday, slammed Colombo for the ban and alleged it was "an attempt of the government to contain and destroy the Tamil nation."

"They (authorities) also have a vain hope that the ban on travel would afford a convenient target for their war planes to bomb and annihilate the Tamil people," the statement said.

The military offensive has forced thousands of Tamil civilians to flee Jaffna. The number of refugees is estimated at between 100,000 and about half a million.

Refugees coming into Colombo, however, say that the boat traffic on the Jaffna lagoon continues despite the ban.

Type of Gas Not Identified

BK2511115595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] are continuing to clear buildings and roadways in Nallur, Ariyalai, Chiviyateru, and Colmobthurai areas. During the clearing operations, the troops lost one officer and 12 soldiers were wounded due to the explosion of improvised devices and mines.

According to the Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry, terrorists in large numbers attacked the troops in the newly captured areas last night. The attack continued until the early hours of today. The terrorists attempted to infiltrate from Ariyalai and Colombothurai areas simultaneously. They used small arms, machine guns, and RPG's [rocket propelled grenades]. The terrorists also used gas against troops in the Ariyalai area. However, this was not a problem to the troops because

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they were well prepared for the gas attack. The type of gas used has not yet been identified.

Many terrorist radio stations were monitored in both flanks. Some stations identified the presence of Pottu Amman and Balraj. The Operational Headquarters said that the troops repulsed the attacks on both flanks effectively. They caused heavy casualties to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists and forced them to withdraw. The security forces retaliated with small arms, machine gun, and artillery fire. The artillery engaged all likely assembly areas and concentrations of terrorists. During the confrontation, four soldiers were killed and 20 injured. The troops recovered 20 bodies of terrorists. The ground troops estimate that at least 80 terrorists have been killed on both flanks, without counting casualties or deaths caused as a result of artillery and mortar fire.

Military: Tear Gas Used

BK2611130295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Latest reports on the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] gas attack at Ariyalai indicate that the troops did not suffer any casualties whatsoever as they were all very well-equipped to handle such a contingency. The military says that canisters recovered by troops revealed that the terrorists had only used tear gas. They found many gas canisters left behind by the terrorists.

Troops of Operation Riviresa [sunshine] have effectively repulsed a series of terrorist attacks. The Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry reports that LTTE cadres persistently attacked positions in the recently captured areas. Large number of terrorists are said to have taken part in these assaults. The Tigers simultaneously attempted to infiltrate the Ariyalai and Colombothurai areas. LTTE communications indicate that the attacks were directed by Pottu Amman and Balraj. Four soldiers were killed and 20 injured during these confrontations. Troops recovered at least 20 bodies of LTTE cadres. They estimate that around 80 terrorists were killed on both flanks. This figure does not include casualties caused by the Army's artillery and mortar attacks.

The security forces are also conducting clearing operations in Nallur, Ariyalai, (Chegajaithurai) and Colombothurai. One officer was killed and 12 soldiers wounded by the booby traps, mines and other explosive devices. The Operational Headquarters also say that the terrorists are making a desperate attempt to evacuate cadres who are trapped in Jaffna Town.

Reportage on Continuing Operation 'Riveresa'

Spokesman Announces Success

BK2411115095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 24 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe has announced that the security forces have completely liberated the Walikamam and Colombothurai areas. Seventeen soldiers were killed in these confrontations while five officers and 88 soldiers were injured. Brig. Munasinghe told newsmen that more than 100 terrorists were killed and 250 wounded. He said that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] was now cornered in Jaffna. Operation Riviresa [sunshine] is continuing and its troops are consolidating their position. The terrorists have already fled to Kilinochchi and the jungles ahead of advancing soldiers.

Troops Clear Areas

BK2611101295 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0746 GMT 26 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, 26 Nov (LANKAPUVATH) — Government troops of Operation 'Riviresa' (Sunshine) continue to clear the newly captured areas in the northern Jaffna District, of mines and booby traps. No incidents have been reported so far. The operation continues, states a press release issued by the Ministry of Defence.

Around 1945 hrs Saturday [25 November] at Miravodai, about 2 kms south west of Valachchenai in the eastern Batticaloa District, a security forces listening post was attacked by a group of terrorists. Troops retaliated effectively causing casualties among the terrorists. One soldier was killed and one officer and three soldiers were wounded in action. The casualties were evacuated to the Polonnaruwa Hospital.

Meanwhile, naval troops engaging in search operation of the ill-fated Antonov-32 aircraft off Palali recovered a total of 21 highly decomposed bodies. The search operation continues.

Troops Resume Advance Toward Jaffna

BK2711122195 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 27 Nov 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Operation Riviresa [sunshine] troops have resumed their further advance toward the Jaffna city center from Nallur and Colombuthurai areas. During yesterday's operation, the terrorists from

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prepared defensive positions with overhead cover offered heavy resistance. According to the Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry, concentrated armor fire had to be used to overcome strong prepared defenses of the terrorists. Transmissions monitored indicated that the terrorists withdrew further inward due to heavy firepower used by the security forces.

Ground troops estimate that 55 terrorists were killed and approximately 75 injured. As a result of yesterday's fighting, 12 soldiers were killed in action and 26 were injured.

The Operational Headquarters reported that transmissions had also indicated that the terrorists trapped inside the Jaffna Town were calling for medical assistance and reinforcements. The terrorists also indicated a shortage of ammunition. Most of the cadres of Banu's group and Theepan's group have indicated their unwillingness to continue with the fighting. However, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership had insisted that they had to continue to fight even at the expense of their lives.

Meanwhile, the security forces confronted a group of terrorists in the Kilinochchi District, north of Elephant Pass, yesterday while on a clearing operation ahead of the STF [Special Task Force]. One soldier was killed in action during the confrontation.

Troops of Operation Riviresa continue to clear the newly liberated areas in Jaffna of mines and booby traps. According to the Operational Headquarters of the Defense Ministry, no incidents were reported from the northern battle front. Troops have already bisected the Jaffna Peninsula, blocking terrorists' movement from the Jaffna Town center yesterday.

The Operational Headquarters said that troops found several gas canisters left behind by the terrorists on Saturday [25 November] afternoon. It has now been established that the gas used by the terrorists against the troops was tear gas. As the troops had been prepared for such an eventuality, the tear gas attack did not hamper the movement or efficiency of the troops. The Riviresa operation continues.

Meanwhile, a group of terrorists attacked a security forces' listening post at Miravodai, about 2 km southwest of Valachchenai in the Batticaloa District, on Saturday. Troops retaliated causing casualties among the terrorists. One soldier was killed and an officer and three soldiers were wounded in action. The casualties were evacuated to the Polonnaruwa Hospital.

The news release from the Operational Headquarters also said that naval troops engaged in search operation of the ill-fated AN-32 aircraft have recovered 25 bodies. The search operation continues.

Troops Near City Center

BK2711104695 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 27 Nov 95

[Unattributed report — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Troops engaged in Operation Riviresa [sunshine] were now poised to enter the Jaffna city centre area, defence sources in Colombo said.

"Our troops are going into that area, but they are not in the city centre yet. There is no great hurry to do so. There will be more fighting and clearing operations ahead of us and we want to minimise casualties," Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said.

He said heavy fighting was reported from Jaffna on Sunday [26 November] as Tigers resisted the troops. Details of casualties on both sides were not immediately available.

The LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] clandestine Voice of Tigers radio on Sunday broadcast a recorded 'birthday' speech by Tiger leader Prabhakaran, (he turned 41), in which he rejected an offer for conditional talks with the Sri Lankan government. He said he would not negotiate under "military pressure" and that the struggle for 'Tamil Eelam' would continue.

Earlier, Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga has said that the government was still open for peace talks with the rebel group provided they lay down their arms and start and conclude political negotiations within a specified time frame.

Troops entered the Jaffna city limits last week and advanced to the coastal town of Colombuthurai amidst heavy fighting. They are engaged in consolidating their positions in captured areas and clearing mines and booby troops.

They have liberated the Valikamam area, surrounding Jaffna and cutting off Tiger escape routes and supply lines.

"We believe a good number of Tigers are trapped in Jaffna with no means of escape. They can surrender, take cyanide or jump into the sea," Brigadier Munasinghe said.

It has been established that the gas used by rebels against troops at Ariyalai on Friday was tear gas and not a poisonous gas. Soldiers have found many tear gas canisters left behind by retreating rebels.

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"The tear gas attack did not cause any inconvenience to troops since they had been briefed and equipped for such an eventuality," a defence ministry spokesman said.

Troops have recovered a large amount of sophisticated military equipment used by the Tigers.

Meanwhile, the Tiger rank and file in the Northern battle front want their area leaders to defy orders given by the top rung LTTE leaders from their safe hideouts.

The disillusioned Tigers say that the LTTE leader Prabhakaran and other top rungers were on their hideouts while they, the lesser mortals, were left as mere cannon fodder for the advancing Sri Lankan security forces engaged in Operation Riviresa.

According to reports from correspondent in Vavuniya, the Tigers have said that Prabhakaran and his inner ring were acting selfishly, ensuring their own safety in jungle hideouts.

Pressure from the cadres had resulted in infighting among certain area leaders who still obey Prabhakaran and others who sympathise with the lower rankers.

Reports said that a large number of LTTE cadres are said to have left their ranks and gone into Mullaitivu jungles taking their arms with them. Another group are said to be acting independently. They are reported to be Kondavil area leader Regan, Gurunagar leader Sadees, Thellipalai leader Manoharan and several others.

The area leaders said to be still faithful to Prabhakaran are Valikamam leader Thirukumaran, Kopai leader Siridharan, Chankanai leader Madiyan and Sandilippai leader Ilankerian.

Some of the Tigers are reported to be facing a severe food shortage due to the evacuation of the civilians population in their areas and lack of transport facilities. Civilians say these difficulties are not highlighted in Tiger radio communications fearing that it would further demoralise remaining fighters.

Our Vavuniya special correspondent reported that the LTTE's clandestine Voice of Tigers has announced the deaths of at least 25 of their cadres in fierce battles at Colombuthurai and Ariyalai areas on Friday. It also gave details of religious events due to be held to mark the 'Great Heroes Day' today.

In another incident, one soldier was killed and three soldiers were wounded when a large number of Tigers attacked a security forces post in Miravodai, near Valachchenai on Saturday. Troops retaliated effectively causing casualties among the Tigers.

The Navy has recovered 21 highly decomposed bodies from the sea at the site where the Sri Lanka Air Force Antonov AN-32 crashed on Wednesday. The search operation as well as investigations continue.

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